Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Official Views Shevardnadze Resignation

NC2112065290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] Doha, 21 Dec (WAKH)—'Abdallah Bisharah, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], says he is convinced that the resignation of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will not affect Moscow's position on the Gulf crisis.

In statements to the press yesterday evening, Bisharah said that the Soviet Union, as a superpower and a permanent member of the UN Security Council, had adopted its stand on the Gulf crisis in accordance with its convictions, principles, strategies, and tenacious policy.

Bisharah is currently attending the GCC Ministerial Council's meetings to prepare for the 11th GCC summit due to convene in Doha tomorrow, Saturday.

GCC Ministers Discuss Report for Summit

LD2012194790 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] Ministerial Council concluded its first working session this afternoon in Doha. The GCC secretary-general, 'Abdallah Bisharah, said that during the session the foreign ministers of the GCC member-countries discussed the Ministerial Council's report which was prepared last Saturday during the meeting of the restricted committee of the Ministerial Council. The report will be submitted to the Supreme Council. In a statement after the session, he said that the report included many points, the most important of which was the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait. He pointed out that all aspects of that issue were discussed.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Official Dies Under Torture in Syria

TA2012202990 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 20 Dec 90 pp 1, 7

[Text] Tunis—The PLO and Fatah announced yesterday the death of Colonel Muhammad Da'ud [Abu-Da'ud], who was martyred on 14 December in Damascus as a result of the severe torture inflicted on him during five and a half years of detention in Syrian prisons.

The martyr Abu-Da'ud was abducted in Beirut in 1985 by the Syrian intelligence service and was detained in a Damascus prison. It is worth noting that Abu-Da'ud was born in Ramla in 1947 and received a degree in political science in Romania. He joined Fatah in 1967.

Announcement Issued

LD2012182690 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Excerpt] The PLO and Fatah announced yesterday the death of the hero and martyr Muhammad Da'ud, and issued the following:

In the name of God the merciful and compassionate. Think not of those who are slain in God's way as dead. May they live, finding their sustenance in the presence of their Lord. God has spoken the truth.

The PLO and Fatah announce to the masses of our heroic people and the masses of our glorious Arab nation the martyrdom of the hero Colonel Muhammad Da'ud, Abu-Da'ud, who was martyred on 14 December in Damascus as a result of severe torture to which he was exposed for five and half years of detention in Syrian prisons.

Our heroic martyr was kidnapped in Beirut in 1985 when he was carrying out his national duties as the one responsible for Palestinian relations with the Lebanese national movement and Islamic forces. [passage omitted]

PLO Commentary Views Shevardnadze Resignation

JN2012211790 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1853 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear brothers: It is not difficult to see that the so-called Gulf crisis is one of the strong reasons for the fall of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. Shevardnadze's policies on the crisis—which had nothing to do with his own person and which brought disrepute and humiliation to the USSR, as numerous Soviet legislators said—along with domestic reasons, are what precipitated his resignation yesterday.

As he tendered his resignation, when he spoke of democracy and warned about what he called the advent of dictatorship, Shevardnadze did so to justify his policies in an attempt to insinuate that the dictatorship—whose symbols he did not name—is against the USSR-U.S. rapprochement, a rapprochement that we can only term a surprising one that has given the United States [words indistinct].

This might not be of much interest to us, considering that it is a domestic affair of the USSR, nothwithstanding that the issue is highly debatable and could produce counterarguments. Nevertheless, domestic reasons as well as the growing criticism of Shevardnadze's positions and statements at the Supreme Soviet Presidium, all of which favored the United States, are what toppled him. This is a lesson to be learned by everyone who might try to do an about-face in foreign and domestic policies, particularly as regards firm and principled stances.

At any rate, after all this, we would only like to say the following: We hope this resignation will be a lesson to those who might learn from it.

PNSF Condemns U.S. 'Abduction' of Libyans

JN2112091190 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] The Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF] has issued the following press statement on the recent developments in Chad.

The PNSF reviewed the political developments in the region and the recent events in Chad, as well as the internal struggle in this country and the United States' interference in its domestic affairs, which led to the abduction of the Libyan prisoners of war who were about to return to their country after the situation was settled in favor of the Chadian National Salvation Front and after former agent President Hissein Habre fled the country.

This action is a violation of human rights as well as an act of piracy and international terrorism practiced publicly by U.S. imperialism—in addition to the series of U.S. activities and terrorist actions against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, the Palestinian people, and the Arab nation and its national liberation movement.

The PNSF expresses its firm solidarity with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, its people, and its leadership. It strongly condemns the U.S. measures that violate human rights and the simplest principles of international relations. It also condemns the French forces' collusion with this American piracy. The PNSF demands that the prisoners be allowed to return home immediately. It calls on the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and human rights organizations to immediately intervene and secure their release.

Shortcomings in UN Resolution 681 Criticized

JN2112144190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has stated that UN Security Council Resolution 681 is not sufficient and that another resolution is needed that will have the executive status not available in the present resolution.

In a statement by PFLP official spokesman 'Umar Qutaysh, the front called on all UN Security Council members to quickly put into practice the part on the provision of international protection for the Palestinian people. The PFLP warned the U.S. Administration against the consequences of resuming maneuvering to impede the implementation of the resolution.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has described the UN Security Council resolution as bland and one that falls short of what is required. The DFLP accused Washington of exerting major pressure to void the formula submitted by the nonaligned countries of its contents. The DFLP called for going back to the UN Security Council to have it issue tangible resolutions that will make the Palestinian people feel that the United Nations follows uniform ethical and political yardsticks.

Algeria

Foreign Ministry Calls For Conference on Mideast

LD2012181790 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Following the recent expulsion of Palestinian civilians, the official spokesman of the Algerian Foreign Ministry issued a statement in which he called on the United Nations to shoulder its responsibilities and to immediately adopt measures that would secure the protection of the Palestinian people and the restoration of their legitimate national rights through holding an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

The statement included: Algeria strongly condemns this action, and reiterates that the respect of international legitimacy everywhere and under any circumstances constitutes an essential condition for the credibility of the concept of the new international political system.

Agreement Signed To Supply Italy With Gas

LD1812235390 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] The Algerian organization Sonatrach and the Italian company (?ENI) signed an agreement to Rome to supply Italy with an additional 7 billion cubic meters of Algerian gas.

Egypt

Bendjedid Departs Cairo; Discussions Viewed

PM2012141790 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 18 Dec 90 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar: "Bendjedid Obtained Iraqi Promise To Enter Into Negotiations for Withdrawal From Kuwait"]

[Text] Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid yesterday left Cairo for Libya after a brief visit that lasted 18 hours. The Algerian president held extensive talks with President Mubarak on finding an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis. Within the next few hours, Egypt will start a series of contacts with the United States, EC states, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates to brief the leaders of these states on the results of the talks with President Bandjedid and on Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's position on current Arab efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully and eliminate the specter of war from the region. Informed diplomatic sources have said that President Mubarak expressed his total willingness to back President Bendjedid's efforts and persuade the Gulf parties to enter into direct negotiations with Iraq within the coming three weeks to secure an eventual resolution of the Gulf crisis. The circles pointed out that Chadli Bendjedid obtained a promise from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to discuss the question of the withdrawing Iraqi forces from Kuwait through Arab negotiations. The sources emphasized that President Bendjedid will leave Libya for Tunisia within the framework of his present tour of the region to secure full Arab support for a peaceful solution.

Defense Minister Inspects Departing Troops

NC2012132990 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, accompanied by Lieutenant General Safiy-al-Din Abu-Shinaf, Armed Forces chief of staff, today inspected an armored unit which will be sent to Saudi Arabia to support the Egyptian forces already deployed there as part of the joint Arab forces defending the kingdom.

His excellency assured himself of the force's high level of combat readiness and high morale. The first units of the new force have already left Cairo by various land, sea, and air routes and have made their way to Saudi Arabia under Egyptian protection. They will deploy in defensive positions alongside the Egyptian forces already there.

The commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production addressed the departing troops. He emphasized Egypt's commitment to upholding right, justice, and international legitimacy. He conveyed the Egyptian people's good wishes and the greetings of the supreme commander of the Armed Forces as they embark on their sacred mission. He praised the great effort made to train these forces, the standard they have attained, and their excellent combat experience.

Coverage of British Armed Forces Minister's Visit

Minister Arrives 19 Dec

NC2012055390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2253 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—British Armed Forces Minister of State Archie Hamilton arrived in Cairo tonight on a one-day visit to Egypt. He was received at the airport by the Central Zone Commander Major General Mahmud Fu'ad and British Ambassador James William Adams.

Gulf, Cooperation Discussed

NC2012124690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1144 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 20 Dec (MENA)—General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, received British Armed Forces Minister of State Archie Hamilton, and the delegation accompanying him, at the Defense Ministry's headquarters this morning.

They discussed developments in the Gulf region in light of international events, as well as military cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

The British official was also received by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Safiy-al-Din Abu-Shinaf. British Ambassador in Cairo James Adams and Defense Ministry Secretary General Staff Major General Hitlar Tantawi also attended the meeting.

Minister Departs 20 Dec

NC2112080090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2346 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 20 Dec (MENA)—British Armed Forces Minister of State Archie Hamilton left Cairo tonight after a one-day visit to Egypt as part of a tour of several Middle East countries. He was seen off at the airport by the Central Zone Commander Major General Ahmad Fu'ad. Hamilton arrived in Cairo yesterday [19 December].

Czech Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo 20 Dec

NC2012205190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Czech [as heard] Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier arrived in Cairo this evening on a two-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Following his arrival, Dienstbier said that his visit is for talks concerning bilateral relations between the two countries. He described these ties as strong and longstanding.

Dienstbier said that Czechoslovakia firmly calls for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and is opposed to the occupation of one state's territories by another, adding that it is difficult to link the Gulf crisis with the Middle East problem.

The Czech foreign minister will meet tomorrow with the ambassadors of his country to the Middle East. Egyptian-Czech talks will begin on Saturday, 22 December.

Communique Issued at End of Talks With Uganda

NC2012141190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Egypt and Uganda have called for a just settlement of the Middle East problem in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Such a settlement, the two countries said, should be based on the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and an independent state, and should guarantee the security of all countries in the region.

The two countries also called for a Gulf settlement based on Iraq's full implementation of the resolutions of the UN Security Council, the OAU, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Arab League. This came in a joint communique signed by Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Omara Atubo, Ugandan minister of state for foreign affairs. The communique was issued to mark the end of the joint Egyptian-Ugandan committee meetings and the conclusion of Atubo's visit to Egypt.

Ugandan Minister Departs

NC2112080590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0140 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 21 Dec (MENA)—Omara Atubo, Uganda minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo last night after a five-day visit to Egypt during which he gave President Husni Mubarak a message from Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni. The Ugandan official also chaired his country's delegation to the meetings of the Egyptian-Ugandan joint committee, which underlined the need to promote and strengthen bilateral ties between the two countries [words indistinct] issues by peaceful means and the implementation of the Security Council resolutions.

'Abd-al-Majid Comments Upon Return From Paris

NC2112072990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2203 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 20 Dec (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Cairo tonight after chairing the Egyptian delegation to the meetings of the Egyptian-European Cooperation Council recently held in Brussels. [passage omitted]

In an arrival statement, 'Abd-al-Majid stated that the meetings were fruitful and that the EC countries emphasized their appreciation for Egypt's policy charted by President Husni Mubarak for the Gulf crisis. This policy underlined the links between Egypt and the European countries. He said that the economic relations between Egypt and the EC have special priority and that the EC countries demonstrated their appreciation of the difficulties facing Egypt as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The EC countries, he said, have decided to offer grants and aid to Egypt in the new year after they have been approved by the European Parliament.

He said that during the meeting Egypt asked the EC countries to increase their aid, and they reacted positively and with readiness. The arrangements related to the talks between Egypt and the IMF were also discussed, following the economic reforms being made in Egypt. In addition, the forthcoming financial protocol that regulates Egyptian-EC relations was discussed and the EC expressed their support for Egypt in these talks. [passage omitted]

Reportage on 'Abd-al-Majid Visit to Europe

WA2012153590

For reportage on the visit by Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Majid to Brussels and Paris, including reports on his

address at the sixth session of the EC-Egyptian cooperation council in Brussels, please see the International Affairs and France sections of the 19 December West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Morocco

Laraki Blames Unions for Strike Violence

LD2012183890 Rabat MAP in English 1203 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Rabat, Dec 20 (MAP)—Moroccan Premier Azeddine Laraki closed Wednesday debates at the House of Representatives on Monday's government statement assessing the consequences of the general strike of December 14.

Laraki insisted the strike was a failure, blamed the tragic events triggered by the strike in Fes on the 'Confederation Democratique du Travail' [Democratic Labor Confederation] (CDT) and 'L'Union Generale des Travailleurs Marocains' [General Union of Moroccan Workers] (UGTM) and invited MPs [members of parliament] to work in close collaboration with his cabinet in addressing, in earnest, the nation's social woes.

Workers, he said, did not answer the call to strike maintained by the two unions in spite of the government's commitment to meaningful dialogue and announcement of immediate pay and allowance raises because most were turned off by the size and scope of the propaganda campaign which accompanied the call.

He blamed the unions for lack of clarity in words and intent saying foreign media joined in the propaganda causing layers of the population to question the aims of the strike. The foreign media implicated are the same ones which oppose Moroccan legitimate rights in the Sahara and Arab rights on Palestine, he said.

The Moroccan premier said the cabinet would start as of this Thursday talks with unions and employers on the size of the promised raises. As to the suggested enquiry commission to duly investigate the events of last week which claimed lives, left many injured and many arrested, Laraki said the cabinet never meant to impose anything but merely submitted a proposal for discussion by the House.

Opposition MPs saw in the proposal, as worded by Laraki, an extra channel for the government to 'sell' its policies and insisted on an unbiased and independent commission half of which should be appointed from opposition MPs.

Labor Union Calls for Government's Resignation

LD2012095490 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] In Rabat yesterday, the Moroccan Labor Federation [UMT] called for the dissolution of Moroccan local and national councils and for the formation of a new government that will enjoy the trust of workers and Moroccan masses.

The UMT, which is considered among the important trade unions in Morocco and which did not participate in the general strike called for by other central trade unions last Friday, also called for a revision of the constitution to form a true and responsible government before parliament, and for holding free elections after introducing measures which will allow Moroccans to vote freely or to refrain from casting their votes without fear.

The UMT, whose administrative committee met yesterday in Casablanca to discuss the situation in Morocco in the aftermath of the tragic incidents witnessed in Fes and Tangiers, regards the current crisis in Morocco as a political one that requires political solutions. The trade union believes that the crisis calls for national reconciliation regarding political and economic choices that meet the ambitions and interests of the Moroccan people. Only the people are capable of solving Morocco's current crisis.

Spanish Prime Minister Arrives For Visit

LD2112214890 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzales arrived in Morocco this evening on a two-day visit to our country, at the invitation of Prime Minister Dr. Azzedine Laraki. The visit comes within the Moroccan-Spanish agreement, concluded during the visit of His Majesty King Hassan II to the Spanish Kingdom last year, relating to the convening of regular meetings at the level of the two prime ministers at least once a year and in alternation of both countries. [passage omitted] The Spanish Prime Minister made a statement to journalists in which he said that this meeting was decided upon a year ago, i.e. since the visit of His Majesty to Spain, and the two countries effectively started to implement what was agreed on, adding that: We have the great hope to develop bilateral relations. The latter, the Spanish Government said, have not yet reached the level of our political aspiration and we must thus promote them. Mr. Gonzales stressed the importance of common interests between Morocco and Spain and their positive repercussions on the peoples of the two countries.

Meets With Laraki

LD2112000590 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, accompanied by five of his ministers, has arrived in Rabat for the Spanish-Moroccan summit. From there we have already heard his words regretting the resignation of Shevardnadze in the Soviet Union, and from there we now have a report from diplomatic correspondent Rosa Jimenez. Good evening.

[Jimenez] Good evening. This evening Felipe Gonzalez and Moroccan Prime Minister Laraki held their first meeting, the first and only bilateral meeting in this high-level Spanish-Moroccan meeting, and it ended with an official dinner. In an hour and a half of talks, the prime ministers devoted much of that time to exchanging views—in many cases ones that coincide—on questions of the greatest international attention such as the Gulf conflict. This question, according to [Spanish Government spokeswoman] Rosa Conde, dominated much of the meeting, without forgetting the last European Council held in Rome, the Paris summit, and security policy in the Mediterranean. Gonzalez and Laraki also talked about bilateral questions and exchanged information about respective experiences in economic policy. But perhaps what caught our attention most was the time Laraki devoted to briefing his Spanish counterpart on the situation which Morocco is going through—an internal situation which, so Minister-Spokeswoman Rosa Conde told us, has not prevented this first Spanish-Moroccan meeting being described without qualifications as cordial.

[Begin Conde recording] It took place in a cordial atmosphere, in spite of the conflicts which Morocco has at present because of the general strike [words indistinct]. You know that there has been a parliamentary debate, broadcast by Moroccan television, and this parliamentary debate has lowered to some extent the tension not only in this country but in the international media, because it was quite an open debate on the position of the government in this conflict. (?So) the prime minister also briefed Prime Minister Gonzalez on this. But what I do want to make clear is the degree of cordiality which prevailed throughout the whole of this first meeting between Prime Minister Gonzalez and the [Moroccan] prime minister. [end recording]

Sudan

Foreign Minister on Garang's Visit to Israel

EA2012123290 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Khartoum, 19 December (SUNA)—Foreign minister 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul, has described rebel John Garang's secret visit to Israel and his meeting with the Zionist enemy's prime minister and defense minister as part of an international conspiracy aimed against Sudan and the Arab and Islamic nation. Today's issue of AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH quoted Sahlul as saying that in dealing openly with the Zionist enemy, Garang had confirmed the rebel movement's evil intentions and racism, which served Israel's expansionist design of establishing a (?Jewish, Zionist) state in the region. He (?complained about) the stances of support for the rebels adopted by some Arab countries in order to put pressure on Sudan due to its position on the Gulf crisis. His excellency the foreign minister expressed the hope that those countries would take heed and reverse their attitude toward the rebel movement. They should realize the threats posed by the rebels and Israel, threats which would not rebound on Sudan alone but would embrace the Arab and Islamic countries.

He reiterated the rebels' insincerity toward the issue of bringing peace to the southern part of the country, saying they were the pawns of foreign quarters and states, and incapable of making any political decisions on the southern issue. He also stressed Sudan's commitment to the recommendations and resolutions of the national peace dialogue conference on the solution of the southern problem.

Kuwait

Defense Minister on Army, Future Deterrence

NC2012212490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1415 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 20 Dec (MENA)—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah has stated that the upcoming Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] summit is an important meeting which will focus on defense, security, and political issues. He pointed out that the new regional situation requires a new defense system to be built to defend the region's independence.

In an interview with QNA [QATARI NEWS AGENCY], Shaykh Nawwaf expressed appreciation for the just stance of the countries which helped to adopt the recent UN Security Council resolutions and their support for international legitimacy. He affirmed that the Iraqi regime understands only the language of force.

Shaykh Nawwaf urged Iraq to comply with UN resolutions, particularly with regard to the total and unconditional withdrawal of its forces from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate government under the leadership of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, and his heir apparent Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah. He also urged it to pay full reparations for the destruction caused by the Iraqi forces and to halt the continued violations of the Kuwaiti people's rights and their institutions.

The Kuwaiti defense minister said that the Iraqi invasion of his country made the region's countries rearrange their policies and build future policies based on a new strategy. He added that the invasion concerns not only Kuwait but also the region's other countries. He said: This was a lesson from which we learned a lot, and we will use what we have learned.

He asserted that in the coming stage there will be greater coordination and cooperation, particularly in connection with military and security matters. Referring to the recent meeting of the GCC defense ministers in Riyadh, he remarked: This meeting was an opportunity to discuss the situation and to draw a unified strategy to confront future dangers.

On the security situation in the region, he asserted that the entire region is no longer secure and called for establishing a deterrent force to confront every individual who has designs on the region's wealth. He said that "in the absence of such a force, the logic of force will prevail and the strong will eat the weak." He noted that this issue is under serious discussion by the leaders of the GCC countries. He said they will determine how the region can have a deterrent force [words indistinct] joint agreement for the future and to confront foreign ambitions.

He pointed out that major powers have submitted initiatives on this issue and said that the region's countries will have the final say on it. He declared that "the leaders now agree on pursuing a strong method to maintain regional security."

Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad explained that the strategy which the GCC countries intend to discuss includes strengthening the Peninsula Shield force to enable it to carry out a suitable role in maintaining the region's security. He said this force will be provided with new well-trained units and sophisticated hardware in order to serve the purpose for which it was established.

Regarding the Kuwaiti Army's contribution to its country's liberation, he said that most of the Army's military vehicles were seized by the invading Iraqi forces because they were still stationed in their units when the invasion came. He added: We were able to keep most of our fighter planes and a large part of our Armed Forces who were ordered to withdraw south to Saudi Arabia after they had exhausted their ammunition.

The Kuwaiti defense minister affirmed that the Kuwait Army is ready to carry out an effective role in liberating Kuwait after its units have been organized and new equipment provided for it. He said that two brigades have been formed. The first has been deployed with the joint forces on the front for a month now, and the second will deploy soon. These two brigades are in addition to Battalion 43, which is serving with the Peninsula Shield force.

Qatar

Amir Comments on GCC Summit, Policy Revision

NC1912121390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1050 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Doha, 19 Dec (WAKH)—Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani has welcomed the convening of the 11th summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] in Doha on 22 December. He stressed that the upcoming GCC summit is of particular importance as it will take place under difficult circumstances and amid great challenges represented by the occupation of Kuwait and the displacement of its people. This occupation is in fact an aggression against the GCC states as a whole and a violation of their sovereignty, independence, way of life, and their relations with brothers, friends, and the world at large.

This was contained in a statement by the amir to Qatari newspapers on the occasion of the 11th GCC summit, which will be hosted by Qatar. [passage omitted]

The amir of Qatar described the success of earlier GCC summits as an indication that the GCC march is on the right track. He expressed the hope that the upcoming summit will be a turning point in arriving at common objectives and achieving prosperity and progress for the sons Gulf people.

His highness stressed that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has made it imperative that the Gulf family give top

priority to the liberation of Kuwait and the safeguarding of the Gulf homeland against aggressors and invaders.

The amir of Qatar said that the working papers to be submitted to the GCC summit in Doha will include proposals for revising the GCC's policy and the security arrangements in the region in light of the GCC experience in the past, the consequences of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, and the changes on the international scence and their impact on the region.

He added that the Gulf crisis must make us take another look at certain issues connected to the future of the region. He stressed that the GCC states have the right to take precautions for the future and to submit their ideas in full during the upcoming summit regarding the future status of the GCC from the political, economic, military, security, and other perspectives.

Regarding the prospects for a solution of the Gulf crisis, the amir of Qatar stressed that the GCC states are eager to solve the crisis on the Arab level and within the framework of the UN Security Council resolutions, which stress the need for the Iraqi forces' unconditional withdrawal and the restoration of the legitimate government.

His highness expressed his firm belief that a military solution will not be in favor of the region's stability, the relationships among its people, and the higher interests of the Arab nation. He expressed the hope that the Iraqi leadership will see wisdom and reason and agree to implement the Arab, Islamic, and international resolutions before it is too late to spare the region and the world the perils of war.

His highness expressed regret for the very harmful effects which the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has had on the Palestinian issue. He expressed confidence, however, that this issue will again take prominence on the international scene after a just, comprehensive, and permanent solution to the Gulf crisis is achieved.

Transportation Memorandum Signed With Iran

LD1512114290 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA—A note of understanding between Iran and Qatar was inked in Doha calling for bilateral cooperation in sea and air transportation and construction projects at the end of the visit by an Iranian delegation to Qatar Friday.

An Iranian delegation from the ministry of roads and transport headed by Deputy Minister and Managing Director of Iran's ports and shipping organization Mohammad Madad paid a four-day visit to Qatar.

The delegation met with Qatari Crown Prince and Defence Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani and the ministers of transport and communications and public works.

According to the memorandum, a sea link will be established between Iran and Qatar to be inaugurated with the arrival of the first Iranian ship in Doha on December 31. An Iranian dredger will also set out for Doha in near future.

According to the memorandum Iran has announced willingness to assist Qatar in construction projects including port and airport projects and provide short-term training courses in air and sea fields.

Saudi Arabia

Writer Attacks PLO Leadership for Kuwait Stand

JN2012135990 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 12 Dec 90 p 1

[Article by Mish'al al-Sudayri: "The Wolves' Howl and the Sirens' Echo"]

[Text] Our Arab brothers, or some of our Arab brothers, must realize or understand that there are lines and limits which we, the sons of the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula, cannot overstep and over which we cannot haggle, irrespective of the differences between us.

Let them rest their minds, or become agitated as much as they wish. We are waiting for them. Our country is ours; what is ours is ours; and our future is ours alone. Henceforth, they play no role in it other than what we decide, formulate, or allow. If we want it so, then that is how it shall be, after God's will; and if we do not want it, then simply we do not want it.

He who wants to link the Middle East issue to the occupation of Kuwait should put his neck in one of the nooses of the gallows he has erected for his people. Trying to link these two issues is not merely an attempt to accomplish the impossible; and before this can happen many people will be killed, some of whom are still drinking their mothers' milk.

Palestine is cherished and dear to us. We offered it more than any progressive person did—whether that progressive person was pulled by his tongue, by his stomach toward a table, by his foot up the dishonest slope of one-upmanship, or down the suspect slope of concessions.

Yes, Palestine is dear to us; but as for those with pale faces and some of those speaking on their behalf, there are vast areas of hatred and degradation between us and them.

We are not their kinfolk, nor are they ours. If they howl like hungry wolves, we tell the desert demons to laugh and laugh again, and then let their howls echo like their sirens' echo. From now on we will not show mercy on those who show no mercy on themselves.

Just a short while ago, these people attacked whoever tried to link or to postpone the solution to the Lebanese problem until after the Middle East problem was solved. Today, they hail linking the problems of the region and solving them all at once.

They behave as though the world countries are a group of terrorist organizations like the ones they head, which can be swayed very naively and stupidly toward their adolescent dreams, on the revolutionary, national, political, military, and humanitarian levels.

Solve your problems among yourselves first and then call for solving the problems in the region. The number of your Palestinian sons and brothers you have killed is far more than the Israelis you have killed.

Had you wanted a solution, you would not have signed the Cairo agreement which created a state for you inside Lebanon which sheltered you. This agreement was the beginning and the reason for Lebanon's destruction.

Had you wanted a solution, you would not have hijacked planes or taken hostages, neither would you have prided yourselves on those deeds.

Had you wanted a solution and had you wanted to retrieve the West Bank, you would have let Jordan negotiate and get it back for you, just as Egypt retrieved Sinai. But you fought against Jordan and you nearly destroyed it. When it handed over the reigns to you, you began to dally; you took one step forward and another back. You want things, you desire them, yet you play shy. You curse America, and then your president says that if history were to repeat itself, we would take the decision to hold dialogue with the United States.

Great! Dialogue with the United States. What about dialogue with Israel? You who want a state from the river to the sea. You who bless every Palestinian who gets the Israeli nationality. Nay, you correspond with and show sympathy with some Israeli Knesset members from among our Palestinian brothers, and even support what they say—they who are no longer our brothers after they became Israelis. I say that you will support them if they attack the Gulf states as you support the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait—the Kuwait, as I said before, that fed you, assuaged your hunger, and gave you security against your fears.

The questions are now put to you, leaders of the terrorist organizations.

Why did Iraq not occupy a part of Israel and then bargain over that?

Why did Iraq not occupy a part of Jordan, perhaps through an agreement between the two, and then bargain over that?

Why did Iraq not occupy a part of Turkey and then bargain over that? Or why did it not bargain from the beginning over the part it had occupied from Iran and from which it withdrew for free?

Would you have accepted, or would Iraq have accepted the situation where Iran had occupied al-Basrah for example, and then bargained over its withdrawal by solving the Palestine question.

Why Kuwait, you .....?

I tell you you will be surprised that we know everything.

I realize that these questions are very naive, but I ask them for a reason since they are your questions. The answer, what answer—you definitely do not have one and will not have one because you cannot perform good deeds and cannot speak out despite your babbling.

Palestine has been plagued by you lot, just as any mother would be by her mentally retarded, ignorant, and handicapped son.

Jordanian Minister Criticized for Defending Saddam

JN2112082690 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic
15 Dec 90 p 9

["Days and Nights" column by 'Abd-al-Muhsin 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Bakr: "Defending Falsehood"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] What really is strange, surprising, and regrettable is to see a man like Jordanian Awqaf Minister Dr. 'Ali al-Faqir defending Iraq's tyrant, calling for acquitting him and accepting him as a mujahid and a defender of justice and virtues, and voicing strong and frank support for him even at the expense of the blood of thousands of innocent people, the violation of sanctities, the plundering of money, and the other hideous crimes committed by the Iraqi invaders in Kuwait. Al-Faqir went further than this and accused the distinguished Muslim scholars, who met in holy Mecca for the world Islamic conference to discuss the Gulf crisis, of being mercenaries. God forbid. This is a false accusation, and is returned to him. They are elite scholars who are known for their goodness, piety, and righteousness. At that conference, they carried out their Islamic duty toward their nation and religion, and washed their hands of the acts and behavior of Iraq's tyrant, who proved his professionalism in lying, licentiousness, treachery, breach of trust, and tarnishing the image of Islam, the religion of love and peace, in the famous document of holy Mecca on 23/2/1411 Hegira [14 September 1990]. Al-Faqir did not attend the conference, though he has participated with these honorable scholars in many previous conferences. Was he a mercenary to make such unjust accusations?

Al-Faqir continued on this disgraceful course in his provocative statements. He called on Jordan's pilgrims not to perform the pilgrimage duty because, as he claimed, the holy places are being desecrated by the foreign forces. He knows deep inside himself that this is untrue and unreal. The holy places are chaste; they are under the protection of faithful hands that were entrusted by Almighty God. This is a great divine honor to these generous hands. And the sisterly, friendly forces are 1,500 km away from the holy places. This is known to everyone.

Al-Faqir, however, wants to distract attention from the basic issue, the issue of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait—the issue of plundering Kuwait, displacing its people, disgracing sanctities—and divert it to secondary issues.

This is a blatant tactic that is obvious to the most naive people. Such falsehoods, lies, and practices can deceive no one—even if their sources are men of religion, as the case is with al-Faqir, whom we expected to be on the side of justice against the unjust and corrupting person, to champion and defend freedom and justice called for by our true Islam, and to abide by them, because one of the most prominent rules of Islam is the firmness of values and principles, and this, consequently, will lead to the firmness of ethics.

Al-Faqir, however, regrettably stood up to champion and defend the tyrant wilth all methods and raised slogans that were studied, prepared, and agreed upon in Baghdad to achieve known and cruel objectives and intentions, whose fate is failure before God's might and power. Justice will triumph over falsehood, as God promised His faithful worshippers, because this is a war between infidelity and fidelity, a war between "There is no God but God and Muhammad is the Prophet of God" and the doctrine of 'Aflaqite, Ba'thist, and apostate Saddam which says: "I believe in Ba'th as God who has no partner and in Arabism as the only religion."

This is the doctrine of the Iraqi Ba'th Party. Will al-Faqir repent, return to his senses, stand on the side of justice, and ask God's forgiveness for what he said? It is just advice from one Muslim brother to another, as religion is an advice. We have great confidence that Almighty God will deflect the designs of the Iraqi tyrant. He will submit to the advocates of justice, and leave Kuwait reprehensible and defeated, just as the devil left paradise and just as he withdrew from Iran, submitting to its conditions in a disgraceful and intimidating way. And Kuwait, the pearl of the Gulf, will return, since it was an oasis of peace and love and an effective factor of stability in the region despite the malice of plotters and the grudge of haters, to whom we will say as Almighty God said in his holy book: Say: Perish in your rage; God knoweth well all the secrets of your heart. [Koranic verse] Hatred began from your mouths; what is hidden in your hearts are greater. And they who do wrong, will know to what final place of turning they will turn back [Koranic verse] when justice is restored with Almighty God's will. If God helps you, no one can overcome you. [Koranic verse]

United Arab Emirates

Secondary Schools To Schedule Military Training

NC1912161490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0655 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Dec (MENA)—The Education Ministry of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] has decided to introduce military training into the curricula of secondary schools as of next school year.

The al-Shariqah-based AL-KHALIJ today reports that the decision was made at a meeting of the systems and modernization committee held yesterday under the chairmanship of Education Minister Hamad al-Madfa'.

The committee's decision makes it obligatory for students to successfully complete a three-month course of military training before obtaining their secondary school graduation certificate.

[In a related report, Paris AFP in English at 1251 GMT on 19 December adds: "The move is intended to create a national army capable of defending the country," said a Defense Ministry official.

["A joint committee from the UAE's Education and Defense Ministries on Tuesday approved plans to introduce military studies at secondary schools next year.

["The three-month training course would be a prerequisite for students taking year-end school examinations, officials said.

["Like its allies in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council, the UAE has already opened training camps for the emirates' citizens. The process has produced 30,000 reservists to support the UAE's 43,000-strong armed forces.

["In a break with tradition, UAE women are now allowed to join the armed forces and officials have reported a big rush from female volunteers."]

Yemen

Japan Grants $2.67 Million To Ease Debt Burden

EA2012182890 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Today a memorandum of understanding was signed at the Ministry of Planning and Development between Yemen and the Japanese Government. In accordance with this memorandum, the Japanese Government will provide 346.27 million Japanese yen, an equivalent of $2.67 million, for alleviating debt burdens.

For Yemen, brother Dr. Mutahhar al-Sa'idi, deputy minister of planning and development, signed the memorandum, and for Japan Masaaki Noguchi, Japan's ambassador in Sanaa, signed. [passage omitted]

'Text' of Saddam Interview With Turkish TV

JN2012193790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 20 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has said that Arabs are able to solve their problems among themselves because they are more knowledgeable about what meets the real interests of their nation, the region, and the world, without the intervention of foreign parties in the matter.

His excellency added: When a foreign party has interests in an Arab or Islamic issue, these interests will be at the expense of the Arab nation and the Islamic nation. Therefore, on such an issue, we prefer an inter-Arab dialogue and an Arab solution.

In an interview with a Turkish television and press team on 14 December, President Saddam Husayn said: If the world wants to pay attention to the security of the region and, consequently, the world, every party concerned should sacrifice for the sake of security, because security and peace are a great gain for mankind. [passage omitted]

The following is the text of President Saddam Husayn's interview with the Turkish television and press team:

[Reporter] Mr. President, your foreign minister, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, will soon meet with President Bush. What will Tariq 'Aziz tell President Bush? Will he inform him of the terms of your withdrawal from Kuwait? What are these terms?

[Saddam] He will tell Bush what Iraq believes in and will communicate to him the Iraqi position. He will assist him with the analyses and information he has so that he will be aware of matters that he might not know about Iraq and about the background to the political issues that led to the 2 August action. Likewise, 'Aziz will listen attentively to him. They will engage in a dialogue about what is being proposed to Iraq, and he will tell him what Iraq thinks. This is the nature of dialogue. One of the main factors for a successful dialogue is for parties to be psychologically and practically prepared to accept the ideas of the other party when it becomes clear to it that the ideas proposed by the other party are more precise and correct. A genuine interaction between the parties to the dialogue should take place in a manner that leads to solutions sparing humanity wars.

[Reporter] Mr. President, America says there will be no negotiations, that they will only convey the UN resolutions. You are saying that there must be negotiations on Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait. You are saying there must be talks. Of what use are these talks if you and Washington insist on your position?

[Saddam] When we propose a dialogue, there is a difference between dialogue and the mere communication of orders.

We are not ready to receive orders from Washington. We said this since the beginning, and continue to emphasize it. The Security Council is today under the authority of America. There is not a single journalist or politician in the world who does not know these facts. In Turkey you know facts, because every day you see and sense America's role in pushing things in Turkey in a direction not wanted by the Turks themselves. You in Turkey are geographically distant from America and you are a Muslim state, irrespective of the ideology of the regime, as the people in Turkey are Muslims. The people in Iraq are Muslims, too. Iraq and Turkey have always had brotherly and good neighborly relations. However, although America knows these facts, it is trying to push Muslim Turkey toward the adoption of policies that do not agree with Turkish public opinion.

How do you expect things to be for other countries, then?

We have heard about and taken notice of the resolutions the United States contends are Security Council resolutions. When these resolutions were issued, however, we rejected them because they are unjust and unfair. To our mind, the issue is not just one of conveying information, because this can be done by the UN secretary general and other related circles. We thought that when President Bush responded to the idea of dialogue, this was because it would a serious dialogue. On this basis, we welcomed it. A dialogue is supposed to consist of an expanded, in-depth exchange of views, and of the psychological and practical readiness to make a choice that leads to agreement rather than discord.

So, if America is not ready for this, then it is natural that we interpret Bush's invitation as a cover for subsequent criminal actions.

[Reporter] Do you, Your Excellency the President, prefer negotiations with the UN secretary general and the United Nations or with the Arabs themselves, instead of with the United States?

[Saddam] We have asked for a dialogue. If things were to be our way, we would prefer the Arabs to solve their problems by themselves. This is because the Arabs better know the background to any issue in full, and they can better tell which steps can achieve the real interests of their nation, the region, and the world, than it would be the case if a foreign party interfered. Moreover, we assume that when a foreign party interferes in an issue, there will be shares, and the foreign party will have its share. Consequently, when a foreign party takes a share in an Arab or Islamic issue, it will be at the expense of the Arab and Islamic nation. Therefore, in a case like this, we prefer the dialogue to be Arab-Arab, and the solution to be Arab.

[Reporter] Mr. Bendjedid visited Iraq in the hope that he would find an Arab solution to the problem.

[Saddam] There are always good chances for the Arabs to iron out their problems by themselves. Past events, moreover, have proven that the Arabs can, more than any other party, resolve their problems by themselves. It seems, however, that there are parties that have become

able to affect certain Arab quarters. These parties do not want the Arabs to grab hold of their issue so they can settle it themselves. Therefore, we believe that were Algeria and President Chadli Bendjedid to be given a chance under the right circumstances, Bendjedid, and other Arab leaders, would be capable of making a serious undertaking to have Arab issues be resolved by Arabs.

[Reporter] There are many scenarios. The most important one says that you in principle will lead the withdrawal from Kuwait, and simultaneously, talks on Kuwait and Palestine will begin. In parallel, withdrawal will begin. Eventually, al-Rumaylah and the two islands of Bubiyan and Warbah will be left for Iraq. A conference on the Palestine question will convene with the participation of the PLO. What do you say of this? Is this satisfactory to you?

[Saddam] Before anything else, ask the Turkish Foreign Ministry to provide you with the documents related to Kuwait. Then you can see that Kuwait is part of Iraq and that it was severed by the will of the British, which the Ottoman will could not resist in 1913. And it is a place that was surrounded by a wall, which cut it off. When the Ottoman Council of Representatives endorsed the documents stating that this place was a protectorate affiliated with Britain, the issue was that of a place surrounded by a wall. And even this place, which was surrounded by a wall whose remnants still stand to this day, was a British protectorate.

In 1961, when the world moved toward the liquidation of old colonialism, Britain withdrew from Kuwait and made it a state. And because Iraqi rule in 1961 was pro-Soviet, the West was against the return of Kuwait to Iraq. Kuwait was made a state, and the Iraqi representative at the United Nations walked out of a meeting in 1961 and refused to recognize Kuwait as a state.

Therefore, all the rulers in Iraq before us—whether kings or presidents, whether pro-West, pro-Soviet, or independent—did not demarcate the constitutional border for Kuwait. This is the historical reality of Kuwait as it is. And if you want to be accurate, you can ask the Turkish Foreign Ministry to give you a definite answer on this issue. This is the background to the 19th Governorate, Kuwait.

As for the background of Palestine, you know that Palestine is Arab, Palestine for the Palestinians, the people of Palestine were expelled from their land, Palestine was occupied by the Zionists, and the Palestinians inside Palestine are still living under the occupation and others are refugees scattered throughout the world. Therefore, in all cases and under all circumstances, we present the Palestine question not because the world is now speaking about something called the Gulf crisis, but because we grew up with the fact that Palestine is Arab. Since we were elementary school students, we believed these facts. We will continue to struggle to make these facts, not the Zionist occupation, firm and final.

However, we say—in light of the Gulf crisis, and after the world demonstrated great concern for the Gulf crisis and the security in the region—that if the world is concerned about the security in the region, and consequently about world security, then every concerned party should make a sacrifice for the sake of security. This is because security to man is a great achievement, and peace also is a great achievement.

Everyone must make a sacrifice to help achieve security and peace in the whole region. Hence, and on the basis of this perception, we stress the importance of establishing complete linkage among all regional problems, because they are actually interlinked. We also see the need for handling the UN Security Council resolutions in accordance with uniform standards and criteria in terms of their humanitarian, political, and legal aspects if they are to acquire some credibility. If the Security Council were to view its resolutions in accordance with uniform standards, then the Palestine question would come at the forefront of the humanitarian, legal, and political issues that require the implementation of Security Council resolutions. If this were not to take place, it would mean that those who talk of respecting international legitimacy and Security Council resolutions are actually using two-faced logic and double standards. It would also mean that they tend to talk of international law when they have their own objectives in mind and that they forget about international law when it would realize the usurped rights of Arabs and Muslims. I am going to great lengths in my answers because the Turks have the right to see our cause explained to them because they are a friendly, neighborly, and Islamic people. That is why they have to know the facts as they are.

[Reporter] Mr. President: This program is yours. I would like you to know that no one other than His Excellency President Saddam Husayn can speak on this program; not even the Turkish president would have all this time on this program.

[Saddam] Thank you, thanks, (edram).

[Reporter] Do you know Turkish, Mr. President?

[Saddam] I know a few words used for compliments.

[Reporter] Mr. President, you are saying: I will not withdraw from Kuwait if the Palestine question is not resolved in its entirety.

[Saddam] I said what I said. My words were clear. Our Army has not gone there to raise an issue just this once. It went there to remedy an injustice that has befallen the Iraqis because of their position on Palestine, their honorable humanitarian position, and their belief. The former Kuwaiti rulers conspired against Iraq and served as an economic and political pawn in the region on behalf of Zionism and the Americans. Hence, after a series of warnings and cautions, Iraq had no choice but to take the position it took. Had the Americans not intervened in the region when an interim government was formed in Kuwait, the course of events could have

differed. But when the Americans intervened, the Iraqis would never have been in a position to be able to confront the United States and its allies had they not been clear about their historical rights.

It was on this basis that a decision was made on the unity between Iraq and Kuwait. And so, Kuwait became the 19th province of Iraq. Our presence in Kuwait and the subsequent return of Kuwait to its people to be part of Iraq was not the first time that we recalled that Palestine is under occupation. We have known since we were elementary school students that Palestine was an occupied territory.

[Reporter] Your Excellency the President: You have put the Palestine case where it is now thanks to the Kuwait issue. For the first time in 23 years, the Palestine issue has come to the fore. Even those who were at loggerheads with you in the past now concur with you on the issue. You now insist on all the problems of the region being resolved if you are to withdraw from Kuwait. Do you not fear this insistence will work against you? Do you not think that you need to show some flexibility?

[Saddam] If the issue is to be considered in its limited framework, it will be an Arab question. But only if it is to be approached comprehensively from the perspectives of security, rights, and international law will foreign, non-Arab involvement be permissible. Because it is dealing with issues selectively [words indistinct].

Therefore, if they want to honestly deal with the so-called Gulf crisis, it is logical that their only allowable access to it is through the placement of the Palestine question in the forefront and solving it in accordance with the resolutions issued by the Security Council and the United Nations. If they fail to do so, their efforts will be absolutely rejected and they will find no one to listen to them. They should not be deluded by this or that meek voice of some treasonous or defeated Arab ruler. The basis is the Arab citizen and the Muslim citizen. You know and we know that the Arabs, Muslims, and all good people in the world support this logic. All of them say if the call for respecting international law is to be heard, those making such a call must themselves respect international law. For those who did not respect international law in relation to the Palestine question and the Lebanese issue, international law is only a means to intervene in the region's affairs and to bring back colonialism. In terms of such a situation, the Arab nation, along with the Islamic nation, will very ably resist the intervention and the colonialist trend.

Mr. President, do you want to say that this issue is finished and that Iraq cannot withdraw from Kuwait? What do you want to say?

[Saddam] In a previous answer I said Kuwait is part of Iraq and that it is now the 19th governorate of Iraq. This is the reality of Kuwait now. We deal with this reality, we believe in it, we defend it, and we are ready to offer the dearest sacrifices for its sake. However, if the world wants to apply international law with a single yardstick and wants to discuss all issues on the basis of their background, this alone would enable the UN Security Council or the United States to ask the Arabs detailed questions on a matter related to their internal affairs. The concerned international parties should then be prepared to discuss all issues pending a just solution. They should deal with all these issues on the basis of international law.

These parties, headed by America, should respect and implement all the UN Security Council resolutions. Then, and only through this angle, can America find someone who will listen to it in the Arab world. If it fails to do so, and if it is not prepared to do so, it will find no one to listen to it. It will find all the Arabs and Muslims telling it: Leave the Arabs alone, leave the land of the Muslims' sanctities, and let America's armies leave the land of Muslims' sanctities.

The Arabs will then prove that they are more capable of solving their problems on their own. We also said that settling the region's problems with one yardstick, not with double standards, and settling each problem on the basis of its background, may require sacrifices by the concerned international or Arab parties. If the matter requires such a sacrifice, then Iraq, on an equal footing, is prepared to deal positively with the sacrifices dictated by the state of affairs; each party should offer sacrifices in accordance with what is required from it, and on the basis of agreed upon solutions. Therefore, we have believed and continue to believe that our 12 August initiative is a sound introduction to the resolution of all problems.

[Reporter] How do you assess the present? Have we entered the stage of negotiations, or are there still prospects for war? How do you view the prospects for war or peace at the current stage?

[Saddam] You know that had the matter been up to us, we would have said that we want peace and not war. We want pride and dignity and do not want armies to come to occupy the land of our holy places. However, the matter is now up to the international tyrants on the one hand and the agents in the region on the other. Therefore, this question can be answered accurately by those people. As for us, we want peace, but we are prepared to crush aggression if it takes place.

[Reporter] Did you say that the chances for war or peace are 50-50?

[Saddam] In the general analysis, the answer is yes. It is still possible for matters to move toward peace, but if the evildoers want to choose something other than peace, it is natural for matters to lean in the opposite direction.

[Reporter] Do you still think war likely?

[Saddam] We do not want war. We have made efforts and proposed many initiatives to avert war. But other parties than Iraq should come up with initiatives. Turkey has a responsibility for peace. If official Turkey said no

to the United States, the scale would be tipped in favor of peace rather than war. All Muslims are supposed to say no to wrong and yes to right, no to injustice and yes to justice, no to aggression and yes to friendship, and no to war and yes to peace.

[Reporter] Your Excellency the President: Let us now go back to [word indistinct] relations. Turkey's stand on the Iraq-Iran war is known to you, as is its offer of loans. But the Gulf crisis has affected the direction of these relations. Let us leave the past and concentrate on the future. How do you see the future of these relations?

[Saddam] Since I was an elementary school student, I have known relations between Iraq and Turkey to be good. Both are Muslim countries. They have had good neighborly ties since the inception of the Iraqi state. We have had relations of cooperation. Mr. Ozal and Mr. Ecevit know as do all Turkey's key politicians that when we came to power relations between Iraq and Turkey took a positive turn, and cooperation made strides.

Relations between Iraq and Turkey have always been good—not just now or during the war between Iraq and Iran. Relations between Iraq and Turkey are of long standing. You know that in the context of this wide-ranging cooperation, if one of the two sides wanted to sell goods to the other and the latter lacked the means to make immediate payment, it had to offer facilities. So there were good economic and political relations between Iraq and Turkey. Now we have offered facilities to Turkey, and now Turkey has offered facilities to Iraq. In all this we were giving expression to the gut feeling of the people of Iraq and Turkey.

[Reporter] What next? Would relations between the two neighboring countries improve [word indistinct] if no solution is found to the Gulf crisis?

[Saddam] Relations between Iraq and Turkey have always been good. [Words indistinct] does not enmesh itself in a situation that we would not wish for it.

There are some enemies who want certain Turkish politicians to take such measures as would affect the brotherly Arab perception of Turkey. We want relations between the Arabs and Turkey to remain unclouded. We would like Turkey to play the role of the brother in Arab differences. Its conduct would then enjoy the approval of everyone.

You know, for instance, that during the Cyprus crisis Iraq was not hostile toward Turkey and did not exploit the circumstances; rather, it retained the posture of a brother. We therefore think that if Turkey must take sides in this crisis, it may as well side with Iraq—Iraq being an Arab, Muslim, neighboring state. If Turkey should, however, decide on neutrality, it will be understandable to everyone and it would thus win the friendship of all sides, just as has always been the case, when it acts as friend and brother in regard to Arab issues. Even when Turkey had its own viewpoint, it articulated this viewpoint without upsetting its relations with its neighbors and the other countries of the region.

[Reporter] Mr. President, no matter how much you think yourself to be in the right and regardless of the historical facts on which you depend vis-a-vis the issue of Kuwait, there is an occupation of an independent state that is a member of the United Nations. There was an official exchange of ambassadors. Thus, international law was violated. How do you expect Turkey to behave as a neighbor of Iraq toward these events?

[Saddam] I have talked about the background you know. There are two states in this world that know the truth about Kuwait. These are first Turkey and second Britain. Nevertheless, we understand the position of Turkey or any other country when it calls for respect for international law. Turkey is a neighboring country and our relations with it are always good. Do we expect its defense minister, for example, to say he is massing an army in southeastern Turkey for fear of Iraqi aggression against Turkey? Is it logical for such a such a statement to be made by a neighboring Muslim country at such a time? When has Iraq attacked Turkey to make Turkey imagine that Iraq would attack it? Does such talk not place blame on the Turkish officials? Let us take another position. Take the position of neighboring Muslim Iran. You know that we were locked with Iran in an eight-year war. Nevertheless, listen to what the Iranian foreign minister said during his visit to France. He said: We are not working against Iraq. Compare the Iranian foreign minister's statement with that of the Turkish defense minister. Is it logical for such a statement to be made by Turkey. What we blame is that which exceeds the mere non-recognition of what is illegal.

Turkey is now the stage for the U.S. Air Force, which came to attack us. In my opinion, all of this is not strange to me only, but also to all Iraqis and all Arabs and Muslims, as well as Muslim Turks and the Turkish people.

[Reporter] Mr. President, if we look at the map, we will find that you are a country that has problems with its neighbors. There were Iran and Syria, and finally Kuwait. You have a large armament policy in this regard. A simple example is that you have the Tammuz missile, which has a range of 2,000 km. Why do you need such a missile and against whom do you want to defend yourselves with this missile? This situation creates a sort of suspicion and fear in some countries, including Turkey, as this armament goes beyond defensive issues. What is your aim? What do you want to do? Do you want to become the leader of all Arabs?

[Saddam] Before Iraq possessed an aircraft with a range of more 400 km, Turkey possessed aircraft with a range of more than 800 km, which is their radius of operation. This means that these aircraft were capable of flying a distance of more than 800 km and making the trip back, the same distance. In spite of this, Iraq had nothing to fear from Turkey. Iraq, then, did not worry about

Turkey's armament effort. When Turkey had 50 ground divisions, Iraq had about seven. Nevertheless, Iraq was not worried about Turkey's armament. We learned from news agencies that the United States had decided to arm Turkey with about $7 billion worth of weapons.

Regardless of this, we were not worried about Turkey's armament. That is because we believe that arming Islamic states will be an asset to all Muslims if hearts were to become sincere toward one other and if souls would become bound to one another, regardless of whether these Islamic states were Arab, Turkish, Iranian, Pakistani or any other nationality. Why should Turkey be worried when Iraq possesses a missile? Turkey is not an enemy of Iraq, nor is Iraq an enemy of Turkey. The Arabs are not the enemies of Turkey nor is Turkey an enemy of the Arabs. Turkey should be worried about Israel's acquisition of the nuclear bomb and about Israel's possession of missiles that are more sophisticated than Iraqi missiles. It should not be apprehensive about a neighbor that over the past period, since the independence of the Iraqi state, has emphasized that it is a friendly neighbor that respects others and takes into account Turkey's security.

You are aware of the ties existing between Iraq and Turkey over the past. How can we believe that all this past can be discounted and that we are going to be faced with an exceptional situation in which Turkey worries about Iraq's armament? We hope that there is no Turkish citizen or official worrying about Iraq's armament. Iraq's armament effort is not directed against Turkey. In the first place, Turkey's armament is meant for defense and not for attack.

We have not attacked anybody. If you want to know more, you can ask Turkish officials about this. Ask Ozal about his assessment of the situation between us and all of our neighbors. Ozal was positive in his assessment of our peace stance, which was not hostile. Turkish officials have never described Iraq's stance as a hostile one. I, for the first time, hear a Turkish national ask me this question, which shows the concern of just one Turkish national.

[Reporter] Are there prospects for improvement in ties between the two neighboring states? What do you think? Between Iraq and Turkey?

[Saddam] There can be no futile efforts. Our ties have always been fruitful rather than futile. We still hope and seek to maintain fruitful ties with Turkey. We still harbor amity toward Turkey. We still desire to start talking about the future and not to stop at any of the obstacles of the recent past, because the future is more important.

[Reporter] Thank you very much for receiving us and for giving us this valuable time.

[Saddam] (Edram). My greetings to the friendly Turkish people. We wish you success.

The interview was attended by Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim.

INA Reports Shevardnadze Message to 'Aziz

JN2012215590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2048 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Dec (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has received a message from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. Viktor Posuvalyuk, Soviet ambassador in Baghdad, handed the message to the deputy foreign minister and foreign minister, when he received him last Monday afternoon.

The message deals with the meeting Shevardnadze held recently with the Americans, including President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker, noting that the situation in the Gulf was one of the main topics he discussed.

In his message, Shevardnadze expressed concern over the possibility that the situation would develop militarily. He said: We clearly told the Americans that the crisis should be resolved through political methods without using military force. He noted that the Americans clearly explained that the United States was ready to hold contacts with Iraq during the period defined by the UN Security Council.

Shevardnadze also said that the Americans noted that these contacts, for known reasons, should not extend into the end of the period defined by the Security Council. He said: In our view such contacts are very necessary, particularly since there is a defined period for a political solution to the Gulf crisis. Shevardnadze also said: You cannot have your special views to this effect. He stated that he did not doubt the Iraqis' bravery and courage.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister informed the Soviet ambassador that from the beginning Iraq has called for dialogue and it was the Americans who rejected dialogue. He said that Shevardnadze is aware of this fact, and that in his last meeting with him in Moscow he had reiterated Iraq's readiness to talk to the Americans. He told me, Tariq 'Aziz said, that he believed that they would talk with us after the Security Council resolution was issued.

Tariq 'Aziz added that Iraq's desire to talk did exist and that the resolution was unjust. In addition, he said, we denounced Soviet participation in the resolution. Nevertheless, we agreed to embark on a dialogue with the United States.

On the setting of dates, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: We explained this in the statement issued by the Revolutionary Command Council.

The minister added: We are interested in real, serious dialogue with the Americans. But we adamantly refuse ultimatums and threats. The Iraqi stand will not budge

an inch under threats and ultimatums. We do not recognize Resolution 678. Neither do we recognize the 15 January deadline it sets.

As for who should take responsibility, 'Aziz said that in the end it will be God's decision as to who will be responsible in the event of failure or the dialogue not getting off the ground. There are in this world fair-minded people, in whose camp my colleague Shevardnadze regrettably does not belong, and these people will judge Iraq fairly.

But if unfair quarters want to hold Iraq responsible, we have not taken steps [words indistinct] either with the United States or with the USSR or the Europeans on the basis of a settlement whose outlines were set out in his excellency the president's 12 August 1990 initiative. If the Americans are threatening war, we are not afraid.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister added: I said this to President Gorbachev during the two visits I paid to Moscow, as I did to Shevardnadze. We do not fear war and we will not accept the logic of the American age which wants to dictate the American will [word indistinct] on the Arab nation. We accept international legitimacy and international law subject to their invocation in all situations. The Soviet Union, which does not hesitate at all times to rush into voting for the harshest resolutions against Iraq, presents three proposals to postpone voting on a resolution concerning the Palestinian people's rights.

Mr. Tariq 'Aziz asked: Why does not Mr. Shevardnadze comply with international legitimacy here, or is the Palestinian question incomprehensible to him? What in the resolution [words indistinct] reference to the international conference which had underpinned the Soviet position. You have changed your position. So how can Shevardnadze demand that I comply with international legitimacy when he himself does not at all?

The Soviet ambassador asked whether Iraq believed dialogue with the Americans would get off the ground.

The foreign minister said this depended on the Americans.

1 Million Reportedly Evacuated From Baghdad

NC2112083090 Paris AFP in English 0824 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] BAGHDAD, Dec 21 (AFP)—Around one million Iraqis were evacuated early Friday from Baghdad as part of civil defense drills ahead of a possible U.S.-led attack, witnesses said.

Iraq's official press has said that residents of major cities have been receiving instructions on what to do in case of an American nuclear or chemical attack.

Citizens Instructed on Chemical Defense

JN2012154490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1055 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear citizen: How will you behave if you feel the presence of a polluted chemical agent in your area while inside a car?

Close all openings in the car, and do not try to operate the heating or air conditioning system. As much as possible, try to keep away from the direction of wind.

Try to reach the nearest Civil Defense Center to (?disinfect the wheels).

After you leave the contaminated area, wash your body carefully with hot water and soap. Get rid of the contaminated clothes. Wash your ears and nose and remove the dirt from under your nails.

We wish you safety.

'Aziz Critical of UN Palestine Resolution

JN2112102790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Dec (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has strongly criticized the resolution issued yesterday by the UN Security Council on the Palestine question and conditions in occupied Palestine.

In a statement to INA today, Tariq 'Aziz said the resolution is a weak [hazil] one that clearly exposes the miserable state that the UN Security Council has reached—it has turned into an institution employed by the U.S. Administration, according to its imperialist strategy and ambitions.

He said: After many weeks of discussion, the UN Security Council yesterday came out with a weak resolution and an even weaker statement by its president on the Palestine question and conditions in occupied Palestine.

Tariq 'Aziz stressed that this resolution and the discussions that preceded it have clearly exposed the miserable state of the UN Security Council, which has become an institution employed by the U.S. Administration according to its imperialist strategy and ambitions. They have also exposed the double standards used by the United States in dealing with international issues, which it has begun to impose on the Security Council in order to obtain resolutions on them in the Council's name.

He added: The latest UN Security Council resolution, which came after several weeks of disgraceful discussions, uses weak language in one of the most serious issues which the region and the world have been suffering from for decades. Neither the resolution nor the statement by the president have anything binding on the Zionist entity, while over a period of four months the

same Council adopted 12 unfair resolutions against Iraq that were based on Chapter Seven of the Charter, because of a matter which could have been and still can be resolved within the Arab context. However, the people of Palestine do not have billions deposited in the banks of Europe and the United States to distribute to those who accept bribes, and who used their seat at the Security Council as a way to make money. The United States, whose record shows that it is the biggest criminal in contemporary history, does not care about the pains of this steadfast, militant [mujahid] people and the daily murders, torture, imprisonment, demolitions of homes, and deportations they have to put up with. It is only concerned about Bush's partners and henchmen—the corrupt oil shaykhs—and sheds crocodile tears for them.

Tariq 'Aziz stressed that this weak resolutions raise a very forceful question about what they in the West now call "international legitimacy." In practice, this term no longer reflects any degree of legitimacy as known by civilized mankind. It has become an American slogan used by the United States to achieve its commercial and strategic ambitions.

Papers Say All Preparations Made for Battle

JN2112103390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Excerpts] 21 Dec (INA)—[dateline as received] Iraqi papers today warned the United States and its allies that any aggression against Iraq will turn into a real disaster for the invasion troops, and that victory in the equation of the "crucial battle" will give rise to the Arab's epic in contemporary history.

In their editorials today, Iraqi papers were unanimous in saying that Bush, along with the choir of those beating the drums of war, realizes before anyone else that his mad war against Iraq will not be a "picnic," but a fierce war.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: It seems that U.S. President Bush, who has lost his patience and begun to act nervously as though he were affected by rabies, is forgetting the hard facts and their influence on the results. He has begun to believe even the silliest illusions, and has made himself make many strategic and tactical mistakes unworthy of his title and status. Among these illusions is what Bush and other senior officials in his administration and the Pentagon fervently insist on repeating by making flagrant threats and ultimatums without thinking, egged on by a chorus of those who have mobilized the factors of evil within them and agreed to play the role of those beating the drums of war and encouraging aggression and war against Iraq.

The paper adds: Bush has forgotten—and made his evil allies forget—the fact that Iraq has been preparing itself from the moment it responded to the great call on 2 August and made its final, decisive, and irrevocable decision to fight the great battle to its last pages. On that basis, Iraq has mobilized material and spiritual factors, the elements, and conditions within itself and the force and ability it has, to guarantee the great victory over the invading aggressive U.S. troops that are trying to penetrate Iraq's borders and infringe on its sovereignty and unity—in land, people, and history.

The paper goes on to say: Today, four months after the great battle, and when all of Iraq has become fully prepared and more able and determined than ever before to confront U.S.-Zionist aggression and fight the invaders and destroy their concentrations wherever they may be, Bush—together with all the lowly, subservient and agent evildoers who have dug their graves with their own hands—imagines that by making threats, beating the drums of war, and fixing dates for war and aggression he can stir any feeling of hesitation or fear in the heroic Iraqis or change the firm, established facts on the field.

The paper stresses that the Iraqi response to the empty threats and the silly warnings and dates made and fixed by Bush and a number of officials in his administration and the Pentagon, which are also being repeated these days by the chorus of evil and the lowly traitors, will gain its credibility and legitimacy in the battlefield when the battle starts. This is the oath of right which every Iraqi fighter has made to God, the homeland, the people, and the victorious leader Saddam Husayn. Those sinking in illusion will find out that they are rushing toward their inevitable defeat, and that their recklessness and adventures have led them to their death at the hands of Iraq and the mass of believers. "And soon will the unjust assailants know what vicissitudes their affairs will take [part of a Koranic verse]."

AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that the Zionist entity will be at the forefront of those who will receive a just punishment, because its record continues to be replete with crimes and aggressions.

In its editorial today under the headline: "The Crucial Battle and the Scandal of Those Who Have Been Misled by the United States," the paper says that Iraq believes that the crucial battle will give it a historic opportunity to expose the true colors of the Bush administration as a weak, hypocritical leadership which uses double standards in politics and which cannot act in a wise, logical, and responsible manner because it has opted for the course of deception and wrongdoing, and wants to forcibly impose this course on the peoples of the Earth.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that the UN Security Council, especially these days, confirms that it is one of the tools which the U.S. Administration uses to implement its schemes, not an international body that safeguards world security and peace.

The paper explains that the UN Security Council has procrastinated for more than two weeks on the adoption of a resolution in favor of the Palestinian people and the exercise of their natural rights under the Zionist occupation, and has ignored over a period of two months a resolution condemning the barbaric Zionist crime in al-Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the Zionists committed this crime on 8 October, on the same day that the UN Security Council was scheduled to discuss a resolution to safeguard the Palestine people's rights and lives under occupation. The crime made the Council postpone discussion of the resolution to devote its attention to the crime. Thus, efforts to discuss the two issues were wasted in the hallways of the UN Security Council as a result of procrastination by the United States and the disagreements it raised within the Council.

The paper says that when the United States wanted to impose its odious, aggressive measures on Iraq, the UN Security Council did not need more than a few hours to do so. This has been the case over the past three months, which have witnessed the issuance of 12 U.S. resolutions against Iraq. [passage omitted]

AL-JUMHURIYAH wonders whether such a council deserves to be respected. It deserves only contempt and scorn, and Iraq now scorns the UN Security Council and its resolutions and looks down with contempt upon all those who have agreed to contribute to bestowing an international character on the Council and its resolutions, particularly on the unjust resolutions it passes against our Arab people and the peoples of the Third World.

The paper asserts that Iraq abhors everything which the United States is trying to impose on our people and the peoples of the earth from a position of superiority and contempt for those people by exercising the role of policeman against these peoples and their rights and interests. [passage omitted]

The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH stresses that any aggression against Iraq will turn into a real disaster for the U.S. invasion troops and their allies in the region.

In an editorial today entitled "We Will Destroy the Invaders in the Crucial Battle," the paper says: The valiant Iraqi Armed Forces have completed their preparations. They have massed troops and arms, not only enough to face the invasion troops in the region, but many times more, and U.S. officials know it. This is the reason behind the dispatch of further troops, and the complaints which we pick up here and there to the effect that their aggressive troops are still not up to the level of a short and decisive battle, as they are wishing for on paper, and as Bush thinks in the deceptive statements he makes to U.S. public opinion. [passage omitted]

AL-QADISIYAH stresses that the battle will not be limited to the operational theater alone, but will go beyond that to strike at all U.S. interests and the vital installations that provide the means to maintain and serve aggression in the region, even if this leads to the start of a fire whose smoke will cover the skies and turn the day of the invaders and agents into a dark night, which will only disappear with the sun of the Iraqi victory after the region has been cleaned of all enemies, traitors, and agents who are Arabs in name only—such as the betrayer of the two holy mosques, Husni, and the coward rulers. [passage omitted]

AL-QADISIYAH Concludes War 'Inevitable'

JN2012125690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has accused U.S. President Bush of thwarting every Iraqi endeavor for peace and insisting on the option of armed aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation.

The paper, reflecting the views of the Defense Ministry, says in its editorial today that the Bush administration has ignored all Iraq's peaceful overtures and its readiness for dialogue and negotiations on all problems of the region, including the Gulf crisis, in accordance with their positions on the priority list.

The paper focuses on Bush's attempts to impose capitulatory conditions on Iraq and the Arab nation, his persistence in the hostile imperialist policy, disdain for Arab rights, continued violation of Arab sovereignty, and usurpation of Arab rights to their own lands and wealth.

From these facts, AL-QADISIYAH concludes that war is inevitable and says: Iraq has given peace every chance it deserves and has repeatedly proved that it is seeking peace, even if that meant making a sacrifice for its sake. Given the U.S.-Western insistence on war and aggression, however, Iraq will not hesitate to engage in confrontation and fighting to destroy the invading forces.

The paper stresses that our Armed Forces are ready to deter any U.S. aggression and are continuing to reinforce their strike force for the crucial battle. This battle will extend [word indistinct] to affect any party that will contribute to the aggresion on Iraq, particularly Israel.

The paper stresses that the dens of evil in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and in the region will be steady targets for our destructive weapons, and that the Iraqi Army will fight in a unique manner and will be engaged in a battle that will be neither limited in time or place, nor confined to conventional [weapons] [lan takun mahdudah taqlidiyan].

Paper Criticizes 'Humiliating' European Position

JN2012125390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 20 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has criticized Europe's humiliating position and its subservience to the United States and its aggressive designs.

In its editorial today, the paper says if late French President Charles de Gaulle were still alive and reading the final statement of the EC summit, he would prefer to die rather than be witness to this humiliating European position, which is subservient to the United States and its aggressive schemes. [passage omitted]

The paper explains that the wording of the EC summit statement was in harmony with all deceptive and crafty U.S. dealings with the Middle East issues, especially the Palestine question and the Zionist occupation of Arab territory.

The paper adds: Together with all Arab masses, Iraq was hoping for a fairer and more honest European position on the region's problems, and for practicing single standards toward these problems without any favoritism.

Philippine Rebels, Ba'th Party Issue Statement

JN2012165490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Dec 90

[All Filipino names, titles as received]

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 20 Dec (INA)—The Philippine National Democratic Front [NDF] has reiterated its absolute support for Iraq's efforts to bring about peace in the region on just bases.

In a joint statement issued at the end of talks between an NDF delegation led by Louis Jalandoni and a delegation representing the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the NDF affirmed the support of the Philippine people and their revolutionary forces for the Iraqi people in the face of U.S. threats. The NDF said that it would carry out intensive and comprehensive military operations against U.S. bases in the Philippines if used to promote military intervention in the Gulf. [passage omitted]

The following is the text of the joint statement:

A Philippine NDF delegation led by Louis Jalandoni, deputy chairman of the NDF International Relations Bureau, and comprising Geoffrey Fabik and Saser Tajova visited Baghdad 17-21 December 1990.

Comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of the party's Foreign Relations Bureau, met with the delegation. Comrade Jasim briefed the delegation on Gulf developments and events and also on Iraq's principled interest in handling them through dialogue and interaction, using civilized peaceful means divorced from preconceived blackmail or the threat to wage a military aggression.

Furthermore, Comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim declared that Iraq seeks to attain a comprehensive and just solution to all problems of the Arab region in light of leader President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative, which offered momentous solutions to all regional problems through the establishment of a true linkage [rabtiha al-samimi] among numerous issues, foremost of which is the issue of Palestine and its people who are struggling to regain their inalienable national rights of self-determination and to establish an independent state on their national soil.

The comrade official in charge of the Foreign Relations Bureau also asserted that while working to establish peace, Iraq is fully ready to face any aggression mounted by the United States and its allies. Moreover, he stated that the arrival of invading U.S. and Atlantic forces in the lands [words indistinct] of the region and world peace.

Comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim exposed the double standards that the Security Council has adopted toward the issues of our region under the influence of U.S. pressure, asserting that international legitimacy is an indivisible whole and that it is time the Palestine question is resolved in accordance with UN resolutions. It is also time to implement the sanctions stipulated in Chapter 7 of the UN Charter against the Zionist entity which has rejected, and is still rejecting, all Security Council resolutions on the Arab-Zionist conflict.

He added that the comprehensive blockade and embargo enforced on Iraq, which aim to starve the Iraqi people and deny them food, medicine, and milk for babies, totally contravene the laws of humanity and represent a unique precedent in the history of the international organization.

Louis Jaladoni, deputy chairman of the NDF's International Relations Bureau and head of the delegation, expressed the NDF's absolute support for Iraq's efforts to achieve peace in the region on fair bases. He announced that the Philippine people and their revolutionary forces represented by the NDF have decided to voice solidarity with the people of Iraq against the American threat. He declared that the NDF will carry out intensive and comprehensive political and military operations against the U.S. bases in the Philippines if they are used to interfere in the Gulf conflict. He noted that the NDF has presented a memorandum to this effect to the Philippine Government warning it not to allow the United States to use these bases and the military facilities in the Philippines regardless of the pretexts for military operations in the Gulf.

He said that the NDF strongly condemns the economic blockade against the Iraqi people that resulted in many victims, particularly among children.

The delegation expressed thanks and appreciation for the invitation to visit Iraq and meet with officials. The delegation emphatically reiterated the one position of the Philippine and Iraqi people against American imperialism as well as the future aspects of cooperation between the two nations.

The Philippine delegation stressed the importance of tackling the Gulf crisis through peaceful and political methods and of completely ruling out the military option because of the negative repercussions.

Jaladoni expressed appreciation for the Iraqi people's solidarity with the Philippine people against the continuing presence of the U.S. forces and bases in the Philippines.

The Philippine delegation praised Iraq's peaceful course and its numerous political initiatives, particularly leader President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative which links the Palestine question with Gulf events and which has exposed the American, Zionist, and imperialist schemes of using double-standards to deal with the concerned parties. The delegation expressed hopes that a peaceful solution to the situation in the Gulf would be found.

The two delegations noted the need to continue contacts and visits between Iraqi and Philippine popular delegations to deepen their friendship.

At the end of the talks held today, the official in charge of the Foreign Relations Bureau of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command reviewed the historical facts surrounding Iraq's firm and legitimate right to Kuwait as a part that was severed by British colonialism under known circumstances.

Ramadan Meets With Australian Delegation

JN2112084590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received the Australian peace delegation led by (Rashid Robert Bashi), secretary general of the Australian popular conference.

The first deputy prime minister said the U.S. Administration's issuance of Resolution 678 from the Security Council before holding talks and a deep dialogue aiming at reaching a complete and real peace confirms the U.S. Administration's hostile tactics and its attempts to impose its conditions before the talks—something which contradicts all international norms and laws.

He stressed that Iraq adheres to its right to set the dates for its president's meetings, and refuses to allow these dates to be fixed by the United States, which wants to use the dialogue in a superficial way and as a pretext to launch aggression against Iraq.

Ramadan Says Palestine Question Central Issue

JN2012143690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1307 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, today received the delegation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] led by 'Abd-al-Rahim Mulawwah, member of the PFLP Political Bureau.

Taha Yasin Ramadan declared that the Palestine question will remain the first and central Arab issue. He noted that the Americans' occupation of the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] has exposed the plotting of the treasonous rulers against the Palestine question after having traded with the liberation of Palestine.

Ramadan also noted that the rulers of Najd and Hejaz are plotting openly against all Arabs after placing their fate in the hands of their American masters, the allies of Zionism.

Taha Yasin Ramadan added that the Arabs are determined at this stage to liberate all the occupied Arab territory and expel the Zionist and American occupants. The war they are threatening will topple the agent and treasonous regimes. The aggressors will sustain unlimited and incalculable losses as a result of their rejection of all peaceful efforts and initiatives to restore Arab rights under the umbrella of a complete and comprehensive peace.

'Abd-al-Rahim Mulawwah for his part conveyed the greetings of the Palestinian people to President Saddam Husayn, as well as the pride of the sons of Palestine in his brave leadership, which has become a symbol for all honest Arabs who are defending their rights. He noted that the Palestinian intifadah derives strength and growth from the strength and determination of President Saddam Husayn. He stated that the Arab people stand on the side of Iraq in defending all Arab rights and in refusing to relinquish any of them so that the Arabs may live free, possess their own will, and reject subservience and slavery.

Burkinabe Envoy Delivers Message to Saddam

JN2112085390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1305 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Dec (INA)—Boukary Jibrael [name as received], adviser to Burkinabe President Blaise Compaore and his personal envoy to President Saddam Husayn, left Baghdad at noon today at the end of a two-day visit to Iraq. During the visit, Boukary conveyed a message to President Saddam Husayn from the Burkinabe president.

He was seen off at the airport by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Nizar Hamdun.

Salih Receives International Physicians Group

JN2112080290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Dec (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih today met with a delegation of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War [IPPNW] led by Dr. Bernard Lown, vice president of the IPPNW [title as received].

The National Assembly speaker affirmed Iraq's eagerness to bring about a just, comprehensive, and durable peace in the region and the world. He also expressed the high esteem in which he holds the well-meaning peace efforts being made by international organizations and bodies and by intellectual figures to vindicate the peace offensive, whose objectives are more sublime than those of all other forms of offensives.

Salih stated that the U.S. Administration's threats to use force against the Iraqi people and their denial to children, women, and elderly people access to food, medicine, and

milk is a flagrant threat to the whole of mankind as well as a dangerous precedent. He stressed that Iraq constantly seeks to develop and achieve progress in all spheres, particularly in the area of building and developing man's potential. He referred to the Iraqi people's ability to safeguard their accomplishments and firmly and faithfully confront the forces of evil and aggression, which seek to undermine Iraq's sovereignty as well as the Arab nation's honor and dignity.

As for Dr. Bernard Lown, he expressed his and the IPPNW's appreciation of the Iraqi stands that call for attaining a just, comprehensive, and durable peace and resolving all regional problems. He affirmed that His Excellency President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August constitutes a firm basis for bringing about peace in the Middle East region and a new line meant to establish peaceful international relations, devoid of threats and armed disputes.

Saddam Meets With Armed Forces General Command

JN2012180790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1758 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Dec (INA)—Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, president of the republic and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, this evening presided over the meetings [plural as received] of the Armed Forces General Command.

The meeting was attended by Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim and Defense Minister Staff Lieutenant General Sa'di Tu'amah 'Abbas.

Citizens Instructed on Blackout Procedures

JN2012163390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1339 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Brother citizen, sister citizen: A blackout is a civil defense method and the blackout procedures are [words indistinct] the protection of your family and the safety of the establishment in which you work. The success of a blackout is primarily dependent upon you, in how you follow recommendations and directives, and how you observe civil defense instructions.

Brother citizen: You are requested to abide by the following instructions and to follow them to the letter upon hearing the alarm:

1. Extinguish internal and external lights of homes, installations, and departments.

2. Prevent light from filtering out from homes or places of work by drawing the curtains tightly and [word indistinct] the window panes or sticking dark-colored paper to them.

3. Extinguish all illuminated signs and advertisements in shops.

4. Reduce and limit illumination in locations where the nature of work requires that work continue under all circumstances.

5. Stop your car at the side of the street and switch off the lights.

6. Refrain from smoking or lighting any fire, and close the sources of [word indistinct].

Be informed, brother citizen, that a blackout may not last longer than a few minutes. It begins with the intermittent sound of the sirens and ends with a continuous sound of one minute.

People Advised on Preventing Incorrect Fuel Use

JN2012151690 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1020 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear citizen: Good greetings. Dear honorable citizen, to ensure your safety as well as the safety of all from the risks of the incorrect use of fuel, we would like to provide the following instructions:

Keep fuel away from heat sources. Keep it in barrels or tin cans outside the home. Also, keep gas bottles away from the stove and place them outside the kitchen.

Take care to ensure that heaters are working, give them continuous maintenance, and take care of their [word indistinct].

Dispose of waste, such as papers, old newspapers, and wornout rags using correct procedures.

Do not leave heating devices on when leaving the house or work site.

Do not leave gas heaters on. If you smell a gas leak, the heaters' gas bottles should be emptied outside immediately.

Oil lights in bathrooms should not be relit immediately after they have been put out. They should be allowed to cool before relighting.

Make sure that there is no water flowing in hot water pipes when wall gas heaters are turned on again.

Do not smoke in bed. Likewise, make sure to put out cigarettes before going to sleep.

Do not use highly inflammable liquids for cleaning purposes, such as [word indistinct], as this would saturate the room with the vapor emanating from this material. It could consequently cause a fire if there is a heat source nearby.

Do not fill oil heaters with fuel when they are on. Make sure that they are clean and wash the oil off the exterior.

Keep a hand fire extinguisher in the house and know how to use it.

And lastly, we wish safety to all.

Citizens Urged To Store Fuel in Case of Attack

JN2112142390 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 19 Dec 90 p 10

[Advertisement by the Iraqi Oil Ministry's Petroleum Products Distribution Company]

[Text] The Petroleum Products Distribution Company announces to the honorable citizenry that large amounts of white oil, gasoline, and crude oil are available. The Company will provide all dealers with additional amounts to cover the citizens' requirements for these byproducts during the current winter season.

We therefore urge all honorable citizens to store what they will need for the season. We hope that everyone will cooperate with us in this area to minimize the effects of a possible attack on our oil installations.

Civil Defense Activities, Courses Increase

JN2112125590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad and the governorates, 21 Dec (INA)—Activities of civil defense bodies in Baghdad and the Iraqi governorates are increasing, with the broad participation of citizens who are gaining the necessary skills in self-protection, first aid, evacuation operations, and how to deal with emergencies.

Iraqi ministries have organized a number of courses on civil defense requirements and duties for their staff in the institutions, departments, and sections affiliated with these ministries. Lectures on first aid and rescue operations were delivered during those courses. Also, participants were lectured on the objectives of civil defense and public safety.

During these courses, the ministries' staff members were also given lectures on how to detect a chemical strike, inspect and disinfect the contaminated areas, and check gas masks; on practicing industrial safety; and on how to contain the damage inflicted by mass destruction weapons. Films and other teaching aids were also used with the aim of increasing the awareness of participants in those courses.

Transport Minister Comments on Embargo Impact

JN2112073790 Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 12 Dec 90 pp 12, 13

[Interview with Transport and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi by 'Abd-al-Rasul Husayn in Baghdad—date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Husayn] Will the new year see any easing in the chronic bottlenecks in the availability of telephone lines?

[al-Zubaydi] With some firms not delivering on the contracts signed with them, we do have major bottlenecks in Baghdad, both in terms of telephone exchanges and lines. French firms had been signed up to supply exchanges for Baghdad and the governorates including Karbala', al-Diwaniyah, Wasit, al-Sulaymaniyah, Irbil, al-Basrah, and al-Faw. We understand these exchanges have been manufactured and readied for shipment, but have been help up by the insolent American quarantine of our struggling country.

[Husayn] And what is the alternative, Mr. Minister?

[al-Zubaydi] Thanks to the initiative of the competent sections of the Ministry, we will streamline the exchanges operating in Baghdad, and we will boost them with new numbers to be fairly distributed among the public, since the telephone set is no longer a luxury but a necessity. [passage omitted]

[Husayn] Our last question was on how far the Ministry has gotten in rail transport.

[al-Zubaydi] The coercive measures the United States forced on world nations to boycott Iraq have resulted in the cancellation of contracts to supply certain types of spare parts for the General Railway Corporation [GRC]. Yet the corporation has drawn up a comprehensive maintenance plan for its machines and equipment so as to ensure the smooth running of everyday operations and uninterrupted maintenance work.

Initially, the embargo led to a suspension on the use of some cars and a temporary cutback in transport capacity. Afterward, the corporation drew up a plan to run the mobile units more efficiently so as to handle transportation needs using as few cars as possible, keeping each in operation for as long as possible. To make up for the manpower deficit created in some areas by workers having to join the sacred military service and the departure of some Arab maintenance workers, we introducted additional teams and attached them to overburdened workplaces to fulfill their task as quickly as possible. Furthermore, we instituted the rotation of personnel between some districts in the interest of an optimum service. What workers remained did overtime work in maintenance.

To minimize the effects of the embargo, instructions were issued advising against replacing parts except where absolutely necessary.

I would like to point out with some pride that the GRC has contributed to the success of the national drive of land reclamation, leasing out an initial 100 donums of its reclaimable land to the public at nominal fees with the requisite facilities. In September and October the GRC contributed to the agricultural campaign by moving upwards of 100,000 tons of fertilizer and urea from production to consumption sites in record time.

I would also indicate that the GRC's works have doubled their efforts to make some of the spare parts for locomotives, cars and trucks. Further, some factory officials have been instructed to explore with the private sector the possibility of a joint venture to manufacture spare parts.

199 POW's Return Aboard Private Plane 20 Dec

JN2012145390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1417 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Dec (INA)—The 12th group of Iraqi prisoners of war, consisting of 199 prisoners, arrived in the homeland aboard a private plane at noon today. In statements to INA, they said they affirmed their continued readiness to defend the homeland and protect its security and sovereignty, no matter what the sacrifices.

The returnees were received at the airport by the chairman and members of the higher committee supervising the returning prisoners and the secretary and members of the war victims committee.

Reportage, Reaction to Shevardnadze Resignation

Shamir Responds

TA2012160790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Excerpt] We have the first, cautious Israeli reaction to Eduard Shevardnadze's resignation. Yitzhaq Shamir says: We have to wait and see what impact the resignation will have on Soviet policy. In any event, says the prime minister, I do not believe aliyah will stop. Our correspondent Eyal Lavi brings more of Yitzhaq Shamir's remarks:

[Begin recording] [Lavi] I cannot assess the impact of Shevardnadze's resignation on Soviet-Israeli relations at this point, says Shamir. We have to wait and see what lies behind the resignation and what its outcome is going to be. The Soviet Union has recently undergone many crises, says Shamir, but he does not believe that aliyah will cease.

[Shamir] First of all, I am sure that my meeting with him did not influence his decision. I fervently hope that aliyah will continue. In general, I see no possibility of the aliyah stopping. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Soviet Jews in 'Panic'

TA2012172890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] USSR Jews are exerting increased pressure in an attempt to leave for Israel by all possible exit venues, and the impression is that they are in a panic, although its cause is unknown. The potential immigrants are trying to leave by train, sea, cars and, of course, by air.

To accommodate the exits, 15 El Al flights will leave for the USSR this weekend to bring 3,400 immigrants to Israel via Budapest, Bucharest, and Warsaw. The Polish, Hungarian, and Romanian airlines will also add flights. In the wake of this development, Ben-Gurion Airport is preparing to admit about 5,000 immigrants by Saturday night. This was reported by ITIM [News Agency of the Associated Israel Press, Ltd.].

Shamir Expresses 'Regret'

TA2012200090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has expressed regret over the resignation of Eduard Shevardnadze. Shamir was speaking to reporters after addressing the building contractors association. The prime minister caused a flurry of media interest with one of the statements he made to the contractors on a familiar theme, as we hear in this report from Jack Katzenell.

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] The prime minister told the building contractors the huge wave of Soviet immigrants would make Israel bigger and better educated. After the meeting he was asked if this was a new version of his statement about a big immigration, meaning a big Israel, a statement which aroused so much criticism abroad and made it difficult for Israel to obtain U.S. Government guarantees for a $400-million bank loan to finance the absorption of the Soviet immigrants.

Shamir's spokesman, Avi Pazner, was flustered by the question, but the prime minister said there was nothing to worry about. He was not about to change the frontiers of the Middle East. All I was saying, he explained, was that the immigrants would make us a bigger nation.

The prime minister was also asked for his reaction to the resignation of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, and it was pointed out that Shamir himself was the last international figure to meet Shevardnadze.

[Shamir] Well, I regret it very much. I am sure that it has nothing to do with my last meeting with him.

[Katzenell] Did Shamir think Shevardnadze's departure would affect the freedom of Soviet Jews to immigrate to Israel?

[Shamir] I don't think it will have any impact on this movement of immigration. I don't see any reason that could bring to a stop this great movement. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1705 GMT on 20 December adds that when asked whether there is room for concern about Israel-Soviet relations in the wake of Shevardnadze's resignation, Shamir answered: "We are worried to a certain extent because our relations with Shevardnadze were excellent, as could be witnessed each time we had an opportunity to meet with him. Still, I do not think there is cause for any particular concern."]

[Katzenell] Are you disappointed, sir, with the failure of the United States to veto this anti-Israel resolution which is brewing at the United Nations?

[Shamir] Well, I still hope that we will not see such a resolution.

[Katzenell] The United States praised Israel for keeping a low profile [on the Gulf crisis]. Don't you feel that Israel deserves some recompense tonight?

[Shamir] I don't think that we deserve a certain compensation. I think we did it in our own interests, not under any pressure.

[Katzenell] What is your reaction, sir, to the criticism from Mr. Ben-Elisar, Mikha'el Eytan, and other members of the Likud, about internal security?

[Shamir] These are internal problems. [end recording]

Spokesman: 'No Cause for Concern'

TA2112085690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Report by Gid'on Remez on a telephone interview with Sergey Grigor'yev, spokesman for Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, on 20 December—recorded]

[Text] Sergey Grigor'yev, the spokesman for the Soviet president, said that Eduard Shevardnadze's resignation from the post of Soviet foreign minister also shocked and dismayed President Gorbachev himself. He added, however, that Israel and the Israeli Government have no cause for concern. The policy that was implemented by Shevardnadze was not his personal line, but a collective policy, and as long as Gorbachev remains in power there will be no change in the new thinking he instated.

Grigor'yev said that this thinking also includes the normalization of relations with Israel, adding that he, like Shevardnadze, feels that there is no serious obstacle to resuming diplomatic relations, especially since the two countries have already begun economic cooperation. The issue will be resolved, the spokesman said, but qualified his promise by saying that the entire framework of Soviet relations in the Middle East will have to be taken into account, and any hasty actions could have a detrimental effect on them. We must take things step by step, constantly taking into account the situation in our country, in the world, and in the Middle East, Gorbachev's spokesman asserted.

He also supported Shevardnadze's policy regarding the Gulf crisis, but expressed opposition to the dispatch of Soviet troops to the region. He also backed the candidacy of Yevgeniy Primakov, recently the Soviet emissary to Baghdad, for the post formerly held by Shevardnadze, who had become a favored target of the Soviet conservatives, including the Pamyat thugs who support Saddam Husayn.

Over 13,000 Soviet Jews Arrive Since 1 Dec

TA1812190290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Today 194 Jews from Ethiopia arrived in Israel. Jewish Agency Chairman Simha Dinitz confirmed that the number of immigrants from Ethiopia would increase over the next few months. He added that 13,812 Soviet Jews had immigrated to Israel since the beginning of December, with approximately 30,000 expected by the end of the month. Our correspondent Nava Kohen reports that during a news conference, Dinitz asserted that construction work had begun on only 27,000 of the apartments that were to be built this year.

Russian Religious Leader on Diplomatic Ties

TA1912115990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] (Archbishop Kiril), head of the foreign relations department of the Moscow Patriarchate, who is currently visiting Israel, said the time is now ripe for the establishment of full diplomatic relations between the USSR and Israel. He said that hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from Russia are due to arrive in Israel and their numbers will increase as relations between the two countries improve. Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld reports that (Archbishop Kiril) this morning conferred with Religious Affairs Minister Avner Sciaki and raised a number of demands relating to the legal status of the Russian delegation and its property in Israel.

Reportage on, Reaction to UN Resolution

Spokesman Expresses 'Indignation'

TA2012193390 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] An initial reaction in Jerusalem to the anti-Israeli resolution passed by the UN Security Council this evening: The Foreign Ministry spokesman expresses Israel's indignation over this unilateral resolution which does not contribute to the promotion of peace, or encourage calm and negotiations. The resolution may be interpreted as an encouragement of aggression and violence, the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem states.

Resolution 'Neither Balanced Nor Just'

TA2012211290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] The prime minister's media adviser has said that the anti-Israeli UN Security Council resolution is neither balanced nor just. In a talk with our political correspondent Arye Golan, the media adviser said this resolution makes no mention of the murder of innocent Jews through stabbing by Palestinian terrorists. This is one of many anti-Israeli resolutions the United Nations have passed in recent years, and its fate will be like that of all those resolutions placed in the UN archives, the prime minister's adviser stated.

Levi on U.S. Role

TA2112064490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Hayim Zissowitz and political correspondent Arye Golan—live]

[Text] [Zissowitz] Good morning, Foreign Minister Levi.

[Levi] Good morning.

[Zissowitz] Can we indeed take the prime minister's advice and file the UN resolution in some folder, or should we really consider this a turning point in our relations with the United Nations and especially with the United States?

[Levi] Well, Israel has been accustomed to one-sided UN resolutions for years already. There is a different reason for this each time, whether it be the European countries, whose decisions are dictated by certain interests, or whether it be the United States. It is always Israel that pays the price in this setting.

[Zissowitz] But sometimes the United States vetoes these resolutions and saves our neck. It did not do so this time. On the contrary, it supported the decision against Israel.

[Levi] I wanted to say that this only goes to show the price that the United States itself is being forced to pay this time. In other words, as long as the Gulf crisis, which is a result of Saddam Husayn's aggression, is not resolved, the United States will show weakness—and this must be stated clearly—in order to satisfy the demands of those self-same partners that are known as the Arab coalition —and not only them—who support the United States against Saddam Husayn. This decision did not surprise us; we rather expected it. Although the United States can say that it did a lot to soften it and keep it free of any operative elements that would have obliged Israel or of elements that figured in the previous resolutions, such as the ombudsman and so forth. It is true that the United States did a lot to alter the harsh wording of the previous resolutions, but we felt that instead of exerting all this effort....[changes thought] After all, what those elements hostile to Israel really want is to recruit U.S. support for anti-Israeli steps, and the United States, despite all its efforts, paid the price. We had said as much, we told them beforehand: You will do all this, but in the end, in order to keep your coalition together, you will pay in Israeli currency. That indeed turned out to be the case.

[Golan] Mr. Foreign Minister, in your estimation, what additional price will the United States be forced to pay in order to satisfy its need for that coalition? The issue of the international conference has not been completely wiped off the agenda; it appears in a certain clause which mentions a periodic investigation in the territories, including Jerusalem, every four months.

[Levi] Let us deal with the issues you mentioned point by point. An international conference is not part of the resolution. It appears as some kind of supplemental clause and does not constitute anything new. The United Nations favors an international conference. The United States has never ruled it out, though it uses wording that refers to the right time for it to be convened, and has vetoed it in the sense that it made conditional on the acceptance of the parties involved. Can an international conference be convened without Israel? Israel's consent is necessary, but Israel totally rejects this kind of international tribunal. We have seen what takes place in the United Nations, and this is exactly what will happen at an international conference, except that there we will not only appear as the accused party but will also be forced to implement the tribunal's decision. We will not accept this. So I would say that the wording is not binding and does not explicitly stipulate that this is a position that must be implemented, but rather the mention of a concept that various interested parties try to promote. The second thing is....

[Zissowitz, interrupting] Mr. Foreign Minister....

[Levi, interrupting] If you want me to continue, I will deal with the issues one by one....

[Zissowitz, interrupting] We cannot deal with them one by one because we really want to....

[Levi, interrupting] In that case, I can wrap this up at once.

[Zissowitz] No, no. We just want you to....

[Levi, interrupting] Then please permit me two more points. As for the reports to the United Nations, one must realize that the status of the UN observers here is conditional to Israel's agreement. That is their legal status. If Israel refuses to agree to any change in their status, then this Security Council resolution is merely a declaration. They can report every day, but they only receive the cooperation of the Israeli Government if Israel agrees to change their status. We have informed the UN secretary general of this. The UN secretary general may decide to change the status of the UN observers, and I hope he will not do so. If he unilaterally alters the observers' status, Israel will have every legal right not to cooperate with them, if it does not agree to this decision.

[Zissowitz] Thank you, Foreign Minister Levi.

Netanyahu Reacts

TA2112115890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu says that the Security Council resolution took no account of the campaign of murder carried out by Arab terrorists against Israeli citizens. In an interview with Jack Katzenell, Netanyahu said that the United States could have vetoed the resolution without endangering the Gulf coalition.

[Begin recording] [Netanyahu] Well, I think it reflects a mistaken view of what is needed to keep the coalition together. I think the Arabs in the coalition against Saddam Husayn are in there because of Saddam Husayn, not because of Israel. They do so for very good reasons called survival. Whether or not Israel is condemned in the Security Council is practically irrelevant to this process. We regret the fact that the United States did not see eye to eye with us on this.

[Katzenell] Would it not have been easier for the Americans to veto the resolution or to somehow change its content, were it not for Israel's decision, at this particular time, to expel the four Palestinian supporters of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]?

[Netanyahu] I do not know. I think that if it was not this, it would be something else. We cannot operate or not operate and pretend there is a vacuum here. There is a campaign of murder, knifing, slaughter of Jews that requires action, and because a government's first responsibility is to protect the lives and safety of its citizens, the

government did take action, and of course the Arabs used the opportunity to detonate a mine in the Security Council. We can take account of the potential pressures on the international scene, but it cannot paralyze us into complete inaction. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 21 December carries live a similar interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu, with the following addition. Asked whether the resignation of Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze is good or bad for Israel, Netanyahu responds: "It is too early to say what will happen in the Soviet Union. We must understand that at the moment, Israel's supreme interest is lies in the continued exodus of the Jews. I believe that this is also a Soviet interest. I do not believe that countries indulge in philanthropy. The Soviet Union permitted the Jews to leave because it was in Moscow's own interests. I find it hard to contemplate any change of regime in the Soviet Union that will not regard this as its own interest. At any rate, an important test of future Soviet policy will be the nomination of Shevardnadze's successor. That will tell us a lot. If the regime indeed collapses, as Shevardnadze prophesied in parting, I would not rule out the possibility of our having to cope with much larger waves of aliyah than those we have seen until now. In other words, if we planned on an aliyah of approximately 500,000 Jews by next year, a radical change in the Soviet situation could force us to absorb twice as many immigrants in a short time."]

Levi Lists Principles of Regional 'New Outlook'

TA2112075890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Mikha Friedman and Gilat Levi—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Gilat Levi] Would you not say that the deportations of the four Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members helped the United States reach its decision to support the condemnation of Israel at the United Nations?

[Levi] Listen, the deportations are not accepted by the United States, of course. We also do not carry them out with joy; however, all the security bodies reached the conclusion that we must implement them. In all the Israeli governments—and I remember governments going back over a decade—in all possible compositions, the defense ministers never argued against deportations. The deportation of the leaders is considered the most effective step to restrain incitement against Israel. [passage omitted]

[Friedman] I heard you make some statements this week regarding various initiatives Israel is now pursuing in order to achieve peace with all its neighbors. We found no evidence of these initiatives anywhere except in your remarks. What is all this about?

[Levi] I do not know from whom you expected to hear anything?

[Friedman] From the people you discuss these initiatives with.

[Levi] These people correspond with us. Things are put down on paper, and the initiatives I raised during my meetings with the U.S. secretary of state and with other elements in Europe are the basis of a new outlook regarding possibilities for resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict. In other words, I would say that this forms the principles. It is a process that must be built up and not a statement here and a statement there. It is a process that the U.S. secretary of state got rolling. He has informed us in writing that he has been discussing those same principles that will serve as a basis for U.S. policy in the Middle East in the future. It is not as though the moment we say there is no linkage—and justifiably so—there is also no linkage in our mind and in our thoughts. We shall not wait until this crisis is resolved in order to act. That is not the case. Therefore, things are developing. The first brick must be an unequivocal declaration by the Arab countries putting an end to the state of war with Israel. Otherwise, the entire Middle East....

[Friedman, interrupting] Let us just try to shorten things a bit, because we are overstepping our time limit.

[Levi] Excuse me.

[Friedman] Just put the bricks in place and finish the building, because this has already been a long story.

[Levi, laughing] You know I am a builder. Okay, first: A cessation of the state of war. Second: International aid to develop regional projects—and this has already been agreed to by the United States and Europe—in the fields of water, agriculture, energy, health, and others. Israel can be a full partner, thanks to its experience and know-how in these fields. The third thing is cooperation on the part of all the parties in order to resolve the conflict, which includes the Palestinian problem. I do not see the Palestinian issue being resolved separately, or as being solely Israel's baby. This much must be recognized from the outset of the discussions—even if only behind closed doors—aimed at probing and pinpointing the disputed issues, so as to prepare these meetings in an adequate manner.

[Friedman] Thank you, Foreign Minister Levi.

Levi: 'No Balance' With 'Man Like Saddam'

TA1812114490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Excerpts] U.S. Senate majority leader, Democratic Senator George Mitchell, says American support for Israel at the United Nations will continue, in spite of the proposed deportation of the four Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Senator Mitchell is in Israel at the head of a delegation of eight Democratic senators.

Foreign Minister David Levi warned the visitors about Saddam Husayn's intensive efforts to obtain nuclear

weapons. If he succeeds, Levi said, it would not be a balance of terror; with a man like Saddam Husayn, there is no balance. If he emerges from the Gulf crisis alive and with his armory intact, he will be seen as a hero in the Arab world, said the foreign minister, and it will not always be possible to enlist a broad Western coalition against him.

Levi voiced appreciation for America's diplomatic efforts, but expressed the fear that the present coalition is wavering and being eroded.

IDF 'Ready for the Worst Possible' in Gulf

TA1912060190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Israeli defense sources say Saddam Husayn will do everything to involve Israel if war breaks out in the Gulf. The sources add that the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] are ready for the worst possible eventuality. In the coming days, an examination of the country's preparedness will be completed. That takes into account the United States carrying out its military options.

Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron told the Voice of Israel that the IDF must assume that war will break out in the Gulf and consider all the ramifications for Israel.

Paper Calls for UN Protection of Palestinians

TA2012155990 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 20 Dec 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Why the Foot-Dragging?"]

[Text] The recent statement by the Israeli police minister at the ruling Likud Party caucus to the effect that "the security forces should be less hesitant and more firm" in opening fire, as well as the remarks by other officials, including Israeli Minister of Energy and Infrastructure Ne'eman, about "transfer" justify the UN Security Council's urgent intervention to ensure the protection of Palestinians. This calls for a resolution to be issued immediately by the Council for this purpose. Those countries working toward the adoption of such a resolution ought to inform the Security Council of what Israeli officials are writing and saying, because these express the situation better than any interpretations about the legality of the Geneva Convention and the principles of international law.

By its recent decision to deport four residents of the occupied territories and its hints at deporting others while the Security Council is discussing the issue of protecting the Palestinians in the occupied territories, the Israeli Government has deliberately shown contempt for this international body. In this, it relied on U.S. encouragement, represented in hindering the Security Council meetings and obstructing a decision on a draft resolution proposed by the representatives of the nonaligned countries.

The question is: Why is the U.S. delegate, backed by the Soviet Union, permitted such foot-dragging? This procrastination, allowed by the other Security Council members, is incomprehensible, unless secret negotiations are going on to find an acceptable "linkage" between implementation of the Security Council resolution on the Gulf crisis and the invitation to convene an international conference on the Palestinian problem.

'Nationalistic' Incidents in North Increase

TA1812111190 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Dec 90 p 2

[Report by David Rudge]

[Text] Nazareth—The number of nationalistically motivated incidents throughout the northern region has increased fivefold since the beginning of the intifada, THE JERUSALEM POST learned yesterday.

According to police statistics, there were 1,061 such incidents from the beginning of this year until the end of November, compared to 220 during the whole of 1987. The intifadah began in December 1987. The number reached 509 in 1988, and twice that last year. The region covers the area north of a line between Hadera in the west and Bet She'an in the east. It includes a large part of the Wadi 'Ara and Gilbo'a regions adjoining the Green Line, and incorporates many Arab communities.

Northern region police spokesman Chief Superintendent Me'ir Levi told THE POST that the majority of offenses concerned raising of Palestinian flags, daubing pro-PLO and anti-Israeli slogans and the distribution of inflammatory literature.

But among the more serious offenses were stone throwing, erecting barricades on roads, firebombings, arson attacks and the planting of explosive devices. Nevertheless, Levi stressed, the intifadah has not crossed the Green Line.

"The effect of three years of the intifadah has had an influence inside the Green Line, but it has not crossed over," he said.

He noted that there had been a marked decrease in the number of arson attacks this year, and the damage from fires had been limited by prompt, coordinated action by security forces and firefighters. He attributed this drop to the work of the Green Line command, a special force of police, Border Police and ancillary services which was established to combat arson in areas bordering the pre-1967 border.

In contrast, Levi said, there had been an increase in more serious crimes, including the use of explosive devices and Molotov cocktails.

There were several incidents this year involving explosive charges in Hadera, near the small lookout settlement Mitzpe Qatzir, in the Wadi 'Ara area and close to Nahalal junction in the Yizre'el Valley.

"The vast majority of Israeli Arabs are law-abiding citizens. Only a minority are involved in nationalistic incidents, either imitating or in support of the intifadah, and within that group there is an even smaller minority involved in more serious offenses," Levi said.

Shomron: 'No Need To Exaggerate' Terrorism

TA1812121790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] The chief of staff, Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, has said that there has indeed been an escalation in terror attacks, particularly within the boundaries of the Green Line, but noted that there is no need to exaggerate. According to him, the situation is unpleasant, but the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will find an answer. He pointed out that the IDF has successfully arrested terrorist squads in the south, in the east, and in the north.

Replying to a question, Lt. Gen. Shomron said the IDF operates on the assumption that a war will break out in the Persian Gulf and that this will affect us.

Golan Resident Charged With Spying for Syria

TA2112094590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] The Nazareth District Court yesterday submitted charges against Mahmud Sa'ad, 36, from Majdal Shams in the Golan Heights. He is accused of spying for Syria. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Sa'ad was captured two weeks ago trying to cross the border.

[Begin Hecht recording] The recruiting agent was Fayiz Mahmud, the defendant's friend. For several months, the two men collected military maps of the Golan Heights and monitored and recorded troop movements. Approximately three weeks ago, equipped with maps and documents, the two men attempted to cross the border in order to meet with Syrian intelligence officers. When they were one km north of Majdal Shams, they ran into an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol. The soldiers opened fire and Fayiz Mahmud was killed on the spot. Mahmud Sa'ad was captured. Yesterday he was charged with espionage. [end recording]

Mubarak Message to Shamir Calls for 'Restraint'

TA2012124390 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 20 Dec 90 p 5

[Report by Semadar Peri]

[Excerpts] President Mubarak has transmitted a message to Yitzhaq Shamir and David Levi via Efrayim Dowek, our ambassador to Egypt.

In his message, Mubarak says that immediately after the Gulf crisis ends, Egypt will take moves to renew the peace process. "Until the process is resumed, I call on Israel to show restraint, both in its words and deeds."

The message was transmitted to Ambassador Dowek when he presented his credentials yesterday to President Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Ambassador Dowek will return home tomorrow to deliver Mubarak's message.

Senior IDF Appointments Announced

TA1812202890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay will be appointed commander of the Northern Command and Maj. Gen. Dani Yatom will be appointed commander of the Central Command in Mordekhay's place. These appointments were decided today by the defense minister and the chief of staff.

Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Maj. Gen. 'Amram Mitzna' was offered the post of head of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Planning Branch instead of Maj. Gen. Yatom, and he is to decide on the matter within several days. Our correspondent estimates Maj. Gen. Mitzna' will decide to resign from the Army.

Labor's Beilin to Egypt at Invitation of Al-Baz

TA1812114790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Labor Knesset Member Yosi Beilin left a short while ago for Egypt on a private plane of an American congressman. Beilin was invited by Egyptian presidential adviser Usamah al-Baz. He is making the trip despite the opposition of Labor Party Secretary Mikha Harish.

Beilin was invited after he proposed a Palestinian state in the Gaza Strip. The Labor Party secretary opposed the trip, saying Beilin's statements did not represent Labor Party policy.

Diplomats To Be Stationed in Beijing 'Shortly'

TA2012112990 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Dec 90 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent David Makovsky]

[Text] Israel will shortly be dispatching three diplomats to Beijing, the first ever to go to the Chinese capital, sources said. The move follows behind-the-scenes negotiations with the Chinese government and, in effect, raises the level of ties between the two countries.

The head of the delegation will be Ze'ev Sufot, who speaks Chinese. Sufot, 63, recently completed his tenure as ambassador to the Netherlands. He will be joined by two more junior Foreign Ministry officials who have yet to be selected, the sources added.

None of the three, however, will be diplomatically accredited, since no formal diplomatic ties exist between the two countries. The officials will be considered part of

the Israeli Academy of Sciences liaison staff, the only Israeli office to formally be allowed to operate in China.

The liaison office—opened in June of this year—is dedicated to improving ties between the two countries in the spheres of agriculture and medicine, and conducting student exchanges.

Fourteen members of the Israel-Asia Chamber of Commerce are currently on a visit to Beijing as reported yesterday by THE JERUSALEM POST.

China has received economic delegations from Israel since 1985 and, according to various foreign reports, it has repeatedly purchased hundreds of millions of dollars worth of Israeli weapons and technology.

Sources say that the dispatching of Sufot to Beijing was organized by Foreign Ministry director-general Re'uven Merhav, who once served as consul-general in Hong Kong.

Three-Member 'Terrorist Squad' Uncovered

TA1812174690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] A three-member terrorist squad belonging to Fatah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine was uncovered in eastern Barta'ah [in the occupied territories]. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the members are suspected of recently planting two sophisticated explosive charges on roads in an attempt to harm border policemen. The explosives blew up but nobody was wounded. The three are also suspected of planning to attack targets inside Israel, including a bus.

Territories Christians Termed 'Anti-Israeli'

TA1912165990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] An internal report of the Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration states that, since the outbreak of the intifadah, leaders of the Christian communities in the territories, who had seldom dealt in political issues before, have stepped up their anti-Israeli activity. Currently, they conduct propaganda and incitement campaigns in Israel and abroad.

Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld says that the report, which was compiled by the staff officer for religious affairs, Shmu'el Hamburger, mentions Anglican Bishop Samir Qaf'iti; Greek Catholic Bishop (Lutfi al-Ham); Latin Patriarch Michel Sabah; and Greek Orthodox Patriarch Dhiodhoros as personages who serve as the Palestinian leadership's propaganda mouthpieces and revile Israel in talks with Western leaders.

Jerusalem's Christian Community Shrinking

TA1812191890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] The Christian community in Jerusalem has shrunk by a third over the last three years. Approximately 14,000 Christians have left the capital. Most of the Christians emigrated to Europe or the United States, mostly because of financial hardship. The Greek Orthodox Patriarch Theodoros told our correspondent Mira 'Amsalem that his flock has shrunk by 50 percent.

Communications Agreement Signed With Romania

TA1812101890 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Dec 90 p 10

[Report by Judy Siegel]

[Text] Israel and Romania have agreed to increase substantially the number of telecommunications channels between them. Bezeq officials have also asked for a mutual reduction in phone rates to the level that exists between Israel and Europe. The agreement to add 12 new communications channels was reached yesterday in Tel Aviv by Bezeq chairman Yoram Alster and Romanian Communications Minister Andrei Chirica.

Cultural, Scientific Agreements Signed With Togo

TA1912130890 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 19 Dec 90 p 2

[Text] Israel and Togo yesterday signed two cooperation agreements in the fields of science, technology, culture, and social affairs.

A joint committee was established to coordinate cooperation between the two countries. Israel will award Togo 50 scholarships for study in Israel each year. Technical and agricultural experts will be sent to Israel from Togo. The two countries decided to exchange athletic, artistic, and cultural delegations, as well as radio and television crews. The two countries agreed on the need to increase mutual political contacts at the highest levels.

Two Laws Passed; 'Sweeping Victory' for Religious

TA1812101290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Dec 90 pp 1, 10

[Report by Knesset affairs correspondent Asher Wallfish]

[Text] The religious factions won a sweeping victory in the Knesset yesterday, passing legislation allowing municipalities to force businesses to close on Shabbat and banning offensive advertising.

The first item, which applies also to places of entertainment, is an enabling act which negates possible interference from the courts. It was passed on the final reading by a vote of 50-44, with one abstention. The law, an amendment to the Municipalities Ordinance, was part of the bargain struck by the Likud to bring the religious

factions into the coalition. The legislation had first been tabled under the previous national unity government, but had bogged down in committee.

The religious factions demanded the amendment after closure bylaws gazetted by the Jerusalem city council were overturned in the Jerusalem Magistrates' Court for violating the right of the individual to enjoy leisure. Yesterday's vote obviates the possibility of further challenges to Shabbat closure laws on similar grounds.

The opposition, which failed to introduce any changes whatsoever in the text of the amendment, was particularly incensed at the provision that courts can now close businesses accused of violating closure laws without their owners being present at the hearing.

The opposition also failed to insert specific provisions ensuring consideration for leisure activity in mainly secular neighborhoods.

The new amendment gives wholesale validation to all Shabbat closure laws gazetted since the local authority was first constituted, whether enforced in the past or not.

In practical terms, Shabbat observance within any local authority jurisdiction will depend on the majority in the local council. Also in practical terms, however, a local authority which revokes closure laws will have to reckon with the interior minister (currently a SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] member) who must approve all such legislative changes.

The Knesset also passed, 44-42, an amendment to the Penal Code banning posters in the public domain defined as "offensive" for any of a number of reasons.

This amendment was promised to Agudat Yisra'el in order to bring the haredi party into the Likud-led coalition.

The grounds for the ban include full nudity, sexual implications of various kinds, and partial male or female nudity "offensive to the moral feelings of the public or part of the public, or corruptive of public morals."

Law Committee chairman Uri'el Linn, who piloted both amendments through the second and third readings in the plenum yesterday, stressed that the amendment did not relate to pornography in general, but only to offensive posters.

He stressed that it was designed to protect "moral" rather than "religious feelings" and claimed that the secular majority would back the change.

Gaza Cultural Institutes Operating 'Aboveboard'

TA1412140490 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 14 Dec 90 p 7

[Report by Shlomo Slutzky]

[Text] "There is no truth to the reports about the opening of offices by foreign legations in the territories under the guise of cultural institutes," Pinhas Avivi, the head of the Middle East and the administered territories department, who also serves as coordinator of the Foreign Ministry and Defense Ministry joint activities in the territories [title as published], stated yesterday.

He said that the only new development is that French and British cultural institutes, which up to now had operated out of the YMCA offices in Gaza, have opened independent offices in Gaza with the Foreign Ministry's permission.

"None of the workers there has diplomatic or consular status," he said. "We checked their language and culture teaching programs and found them to be aboveboard, and we approved them. We received assurances from the institutes that they would not conduct any activities other than those they reported." In any event, it would seem that local inhabitants are not knocking on the doors of the cultural institutes.

Several European and other countries operate in the territories through advisers on labor, agricultural, and other affairs. Thousands of inhabitants of the territories who hold foreign passports see to their affairs at the foreign consulates in East Jerusalem or the embassies in Tel Aviv. This particularly applies to the South American legations, which get numerous applications from inhabitants who hold or have relatives holding some South American citizenship.

Inhabitants who hold foreign citizenship have in the past complained about harassment by Civil Administration officials in a bid to pressure them to move back to their countries, even when they had been living in the territories for many years.

Four Kakh Members Arrested; Rioting at Bi'r Zayt

TA1712114390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Four Kakh members were arrested this morning when they attempted to penetrate the Temple Mount site in Jerusalem carrying placards. Among the four are Kakh spokesman No'am Federman and leading activist Tiran Pollak. Elsewhere, Jerusalem was quiet, as members of the Temple Mount Faithful held a ceremony in front of the Western Wall. Massive police reinforcements were on hand, and Arabs from the territories were banned from the capital. [passage omitted]

In Ramallah, students at Bi'r Zayt University demonstrated against the deportation orders imposed on four Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists. The students, joined by residents of the city, threw rocks at Border Police. Police dispersed the demonstrators with tear gas and rubber bullets and arrested four of the demonstrators.

Soldier Wounded; Attack on Woman Denied

TA1612153290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was slightly wounded as a bomb went off near a hitchhiking stop on the highway to Nabulus. An ITIM correspondent reports that the soldier was transferred to Tel Hashomer Hospital.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 16 December reports that according to a police statement, "the attack reported this morning did not take place," and that "the story was a figment of the complaining woman's imagination."]

Three Drug Dealers Caught With Heroin, Hashish

TA1512092890 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Dec 90 p 10

[Report by David Rudge]

[Text] 'Akko—Three suspected drug dealers were arrested Tuesday night following an operation by members of the special Lebanese border unit and the drug squad, the spokesman for the Galilee district police reported yesterday.

Police discovered 50 kg of hashish and one kg of heroin in the car in which the suspects were traveling.

The car was stopped in the Lower Galilee area following a chase and the three occupants were arrested. The spokesman said two were residents of the south of the country and the third lived in the Janin area. He declined to give further details.

Lake To Be Pumped Below Red Line if Needed

TA1512100190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] The National Water Carrier's pumps were activated this week, despite the decision to halt the pumping of water from Lake Tiberias. This was done to supply the city of Haifa with drinking water. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht was told that the urgent need to resume pumping resulted from the drying up of the Tzalmon Reservoir. The Water Commission reported that the National Water Carrier's pumps will operate only to supply residents with drinking water. It has been decided to permit pumping even below the lake's red line, if necessary, in order to supply drinking water. This morning, the water level of Lake Tiberias was only five cm above the red line.

Level Close to Red Line

TA1812203690 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Excerpt] All the surface water and groundwater reservoirs in the country have almost dried up, and the water situation is close to the red line. This is the result of probes by the Meqorot water company. Our correspondent Moshe Nestlebaum reported that the public has not experienced a lack of water because the Meqorot company has been transferring water from one reservoir to another. The National Water Carrier has been paralyzed for the last two weeks after its water level reached a low point. The level of Lake Tiberias is now only five cm over the red line. A rise in the salinity of the water in certain parts of the country has been discovered as a result of the lack of rain, and only heavy rains could slightly improve the situation. [passage omitted]

Airstrip Inaugurated in Gaza Settlement

TA1812110190 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Dec 90 p C2

[Report by Zohar Blumenkrantz]

[Excerpt] An airstrip was inaugurated in Gaza's Gush Qatif yesterday in the presence of Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav. Addressing the celebrants, the minister said that "Gush Qatif is proof that peace and security are interrelated. The answer to peace will not be provided through territorial concessions which will merely endanger Israel's survival. It is the government's duty to give the Gush Qatif settlers all the municipal services enjoyed by every Israeli citizen."

Qatzav reminded his audience that it was a Cabinet decision that made the settlement of Gush Qatif possible. [passage omitted]

IDF Approves Lower Reserve Duty Age to 51

TA2112090690 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Dec 90 p 2

[ITIM report]

[Text] Defence Minister Moshe Arens and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Chief of Staff Dan Shomron yesterday approved a recommendation to lower the age of completion of reserve duty from 54 to 51.

Reservists who wish to serve past the age of 51 may do so if their skills are needed by the army.

The decision, based on the recommendation of IDF Manpower, will be implemented gradually in 1991.

Update on 20 December Incidents in Territories

TA2112145790

[Editorial Report] Several newspapers report on incidents in the territories on 20 December.

A pool report on page 6 of Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 21 December says: "Yesterday in clashes in the Gaza Strip, 11 local residents were injured by soldiers' gunfire. An Army ambulance was attacked in Khan Yunus." Soldiers who came to the rescue believed

the ambulance crew was hurt and "retaliated sharply." "In a later clash with the soldiers, seven Khan Yunus residents were injured; six suffer moderate wounds, and one was seriously injured." The same article also reports: "In Rafah and Dayr al-Balah, soldiers using live ammunition shot and injured two youths. In the Jabalyah refugee camp, a resident was shot in the face with a live bullet."

A pool report on page 3 of Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 21 December notes that "a general strike was observed in the West Bank, and most locations were quiet." The story goes on to report that in al-Masahiliyah, near Janin, two people were seriously wounded by live ammunition fired by Israeli Army soldiers operating in the village. Another man was wounded in the 'Askar refugee camp. All three were brought to al-Ittihad al-Nisa'i Hospital in Nabulus.

The same DAVAR story reports that on 21 December the Gaza military court handed down two life sentences to 'Atif 'Abd-a-Fatah Nasir, a 28-year-old resident of Khan Yunus. He had headed a squad of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and had set up a strike committee with three other men. The four squad members were found guilty of setting up a hostile organization, murder, and attempted murder. The other three members were given life sentences and additional 10- to 20-year prison terms. Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 21 December carries various ITIM reports about incidents in the territories. A report on page 15 notes that "Sami Halil, 35, a Bayta resident who was stabbed on Monday by masked youths on suspicion of cooperating with Israel, died yesterday at al-Ittihad Hospital in Nabulus of his wounds."

A report on page 20 of the same issue says that "a bomb was discovered and dismantled harmlessly yesterday morning at a building site in Kefar Sava" and that "several arrests were made."

Another report on the same page notes that a 15-year-old boy from Hebron was detained in Jerusalem's Musrara neighborhood "when he tried to take the gun from a policeman who said he would be arrested." The report adds that "earlier, at around midnight, an Arab resident of the Old City was lightly wounded when his car was torched near his home."

A staff report on the same page says that a general strike was called in the Gaza Strip to protest the "Judaization of Jerusalem" and the establishment of a special ministry for Jerusalem.

The report also notes that a Golani soldier was sentenced to 28 days in jail for shooting and seriously wounding a Nabulus municipal worker "in violation of standing firing orders."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 21 December reports: "The security forces recently uncovered a large Fatah cell in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the members of this cell are suspected of 27 terror attacks, including shooting at an Army unit, the murder of 15 Arabs suspected of collaboration with the authorities, and numerous attacks and kidnappings of Arab residents. The squad members turned over firearms and weapons such as revolvers, hand grenades, axes, and swords."

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 21 December carries a report by Asher Shiloni on page 5 saying that two Holon residents were given three-month suspended prison terms and fined between 150 and 300 shekels for rioting and setting up roadblocks after the murder of three Jews in Yaffo.

Editorial Views End of Shevardnadze 'Era'

JN2112100390 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Dec 90 pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "On Shevardnadze's Resignation"]

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's surprising resignation is considered a turning point in the political course of a country that was a superpower. This major domestic development in Moscow is a sign of the bankruptcy of a foreign policy that lacked—throughout the past five years—respect and credibility, even in the eyes of the Soviet people.

In the Shevardnadze era, the USSR's foreign policy lacked the elements of firmness, honesty, and principled character, in addition to elements that were the object of respect and appreciation by the world, particularly by the developed countries before Shevardnadze came up with his disgusting performance—particularly in the recent period.

A quick look at the Soviet handling of the Gulf crisis, for example, very clearly shows how Shevardnadze used the USSR's position and influence in the service of the Atlantic campaign against Iraq, and how this minister outbid even the Americans in showing his hostility to Iraq and all the Arabs.

The malicious joy and prevailing satisfaction in the various quarters of Arab public opinion regarding the swift downfall of Shevardnadze reflect the feelings of anger and disapproval that emerged among the Arabs, the Soviets, and others as a result of his submission to the Americans and his attempts to appease them in a manner that is inappropriate even for the foreign minister of a small country, much less the foreign minister of a country that now considers itself one of the major countries.

Since we believe that the internal crisis in the USSR has toppled Shevardnadze and that the bankruptcy of the course whose symbol is this pro-U.S. minister has undermined the position of the true friend of Baker, Bush, and Thatcher, we cannot ignore the fact that the Gulf crisis and the miserable performance of Soviet foreign policy were one of the major factors that precipitated the dreadful downfall of one of the most important U.S. horses in Moscow.

In light of this, we believe that the era in which Shevardnadze's ministry and foreign policy were affiliated with the U.S. Department of State in Washington has ended or is on its way out. We hope that this major Soviet political development will be a prelude to other similar developments that will restore balance—not only to the domestic Soviet policies, but also to the foreign policies that created this current imbalance in international relations, weakened Moscow's position, and placed Washington at the top of the new international order that emerged from the ruins of the resounding Soviet downfalls.

Cheney's 'Provocative' Visit To Region Viewed

JN2112142290 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Dec 90 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "The Unambiguous Aims of Cheney's Visit"]

[Text] The visit by the U.S. defense secretary and his chief of staff to the Arabian Gulf is yet another escalatory step by Washington, especially since it falls within a framework of continuous threats and coincides with the arrival of further U.S. reinforcements to the land of the Arabian Gulf and Peninsula.

The meaning behind this provocative visit will not have any degree of ambiguity for the millions of Arabs and Muslims who are following this U.S. process of escalation, or for the Army and people of Iraq who are keeping their finger on the trigger in wait for the major battle with all historic enemies of this nation.

The first thing that attracts one's attention to this growing U.S. escalation is the fact that it comes in great harmony with those few voices in the world calling for rejecting the option of a negotiated solution and for starting a terrible war, in which much Arab and American blood will flow to serve the oil sheikhdoms, Israel, and Zionism.

We are confident that this constant U.S. intimidation will not succeed in weakening the resolve of this nation, which is determined to adhere to its dignity. We are even more confident that the lofty Iraqi stance in the face of the U.S.-Atlantic concentrations will change the reality of this nation and make the Americans face the awaited historic confrontation with millions of Arabs and Muslims.

While we turn our faces away from all U.S. campaigns of intimidation and saber-rattling, which aim at breaking the will of this nation and push it to the bottom of concessions without a war or battle, we see in the faces of the Iraqi heroes and in the tune of their voices—which are tinged with anger—the signs of a clear victory over the forces of tyranny and the signs of a new dawn filled with glory, pride, and honor that will be created by the millions who are eager to swoop down from everywhere as soon as the first shot is fired.

Senate Denounces Israeli Policy in Territories

JN2012130090 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Ahmad al-Lawzi, speaker of the Senate, has issued a statement on behalf of the senators in which he denounced the attempts of the so-called Zionist Temple Mount Faithful to violate the holiness of the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque, and their efforts, which are supported by the Israeli occupation authorities, to demolish the al-Aqsa Mosque so as to set up the alleged temple over its rubble. Following is the text of the statement:

The Senate has followed with concern and denunciation the episodes of the Israeli conspiracy against the Palestine question, and the massacres committed daily by the Zionist entity against the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories in Palestine—the latest of which being the attempt of the Zionist Temple Mount Faithful to prevent Muslim worshippers from reaching al-Aqsa Mosque and praying there, so that they alone can reach the Mosque courtyard under the pretext that it is the place of their prayer.

The Zionist Israeli enemy's organized, racist criminal attempts are evidence of its determination to demolish the al-Aqsa Mosque to set up the temple in its place. Also, the Zionist Israeli enemy's deportation of another number of Palestinian nationalist figures outside their homeland, Palestine, and the arrest of more than 1,000 Arab citizens in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank within one day only, in addition to the imposition of curfews in all the occupied Palestinian territories—all these are studied steps aimed to Judaize Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied territories, so as to gradually eliminate the Palestinian Arab people.

The Senate appeals to all benevolent forces in the world and all peace-loving people and world parliaments to support the rights of the Palestinian people against Israeli crimes and practices which violate human rights and the Fourth Geneva Convention which guarantees protection for any people who fall prey to occupation. The Senate also appeals to the United Nations to honor its various resolutions related to the Palestine question, safeguard the Arabism of the city of Holy Jerusalem, and stop Israeli massacres which Israel has been committing daily against the defenseless Palestinian people.

'Strategic Parity' Created by Iraq Defended

JN2012122090 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Dec 90 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "The Evil Pledges of Washington and Tel Aviv"]

[Text] Yesterday, [Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq] Shamir affirmed that his government will continue with the policy of deportation it follows against the Palestinians in the occupied territories. This declaration constitutes a flagrant challenge to international legitimacy and charters, which prevent the deportation of citizens living under occupation from their homeland. Notably, such a challenge has emerged while the UN Security Council is still unable to adopt a resolution concerning the protection of Palestinians living under occupation. It is also clear that the council's failure to pass a resolution is due to the pressures and maneuvers made by Washington against its members. This shows the major responsibility which the U.S. Administration bears in hampering international legitimacy and charters which protect the Palestinians in the occupied territories, and in encouraging the Israeli aggressors to challenge those charters and increase the suffering of the Palestinian people there.

This sad conclusion confirms the conviction that those who hamper the application of international legitimacy on the Palestine question do not have the right to use the cover of international legitimacy in the Gulf crisis. Dealing with legitimacy in double standards—one that gives a free hand to the Israeli aggressors and the other beating the drums of war against Iraq in spite of the fact that it is prepared to hold dialogue—is a biased, discriminatory approach not worthy of any respect.

On the other hand, while renewing his threats to deport Palestinians, Shamir said that Bush stressed during their recent talks in Washington that the United States will not offer what he called "any concession to Iraq at Israel's expense." This means that Bush pledged to Shamir that international legitimacy will not apply to the Palestine question on the pretext that such an application would mean a concession to Iraq at Israel's expense. The effect of this pledge is seen now in the UN Security Council's failure to protect the Palestinians under occupation and in its failure to call for convening an international conference.

It is important to note that Bush's pledge to Shamir in itself represents the clearest and worst linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question. This is because it represents a pledge to hamper the application of international legitimacy on the [Palestine] question and a pledge to employ international legitimacy ove. the [Gulf] crisis in a negative way to serve as a cover to abort the Arab force built by Iraq and remove it from the region's political map. Meanwhile, the linkage between the Palestine issue and the crisis which Iraq insists upon represents a civilized call to apply international legitimacy to all problems in the region and achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

Washington will be making a big mistake if it thinks the pledges it exchanges with Israel can decide the future of the region. This is because the Arab masses will not stand idly by in the face of any attempt to strike at the Arab strategic parity with the Israeli aggressors that was achieved for the first time through fraternal Iraq. Undoubtedly, these masses will defend this parity everywhere with all their strength because they will never allow their future to be at the mercy of the evil pledges exchanged by Washington and Tel Aviv.

Commission Agrees No Plebiscite on Charter

JN2012115590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20-21 Dec 90 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ghadir Tahir]

[Text] Amman—The General Commission drafting the National Charter held its last working session Wednesday night after six months of work and is expected to recommend to His Majesty King Husayn that the document be ratified either by Parliament or a "national conference."

The commission has reached a consensus agreement that the charter should be endorsed by a formula other than national plebiscite, Ahmad 'Ubaydat, chairman of the commission, said.

The charter, which will set the framework for political, social and economic life in the Kingdom, deals with issues touching on almost every aspect of life in the Kingdom. But the three topics which were the most contentious were the character of political parties, Islamic Sharia and Jordanian-Palestinian relationship.

The idea of the charter was initiated by King Husayn last May following price riots which hit the southern towns of the Kingdom and led to the resignation of them Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i.

The King has said the charter, which he described as a social contract and which would serve as a framework for political parties in the country, would be presented to the people but he did not specify the method of formalisation of the document.

"It is not the commission's responsibility to decide whether a plebiscite is held or not," 'Ubaydat told the Jordan Times. However, he expressed his opinion that the nature of the issues at the heart of the charter make it impractical to hold a referendum.

the 60-member commission had set up a special subcommittee to study the method of ratification and a preamble will accompany the draft charter with the panel's recommendations when it is finally presented to the King next week.

Commission members said they expect the King to call a national conference to debate the document. The conference would include representatives of all elected and representative institutions in the country, including parliament members, professional unions and municipal councils, societies and student and university unions as well as tribal leaders.

"There is certainly a controversial constitutional point to be made concerning a plebiscite," 'Ubaydat said. "From a practical point of view, we do not think it is wise to put a charter containing so many topics to a yes-no vote by the people," the former prime minister said. He said he does not think the outcome of such a vote "would be representative of what people want."

Many politicians and parliamentarians as well as ordinary citizens agree with 'Ubaydat's argument that it is not practical to say yes or no to a 50-page document. 'Ubaydat said that if the King insists on holding a referendum, then the Constitution must be amended to "introduce a provision for a plebiscite."

He noted that if the charter is presented to Parliament, it would be presented "as an important document but not as a law." But commission members, including 'Ubaydat, say the charter's objectives, must be transformed into legislation by going through constitutional channels.

Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz al-Din has said that "at least two or three pieces" of legislations would derive from the charter.

The charter commission, which includes representatives from the right to the left reflecting the government's tolerance of different political ideologies, outlines a "concept that was dealt with in absolute terms" for the organisation of political parties, banned since 1957, 'Ubaydat said.

The draft charter imposes no limitations on the freedom to organise in a political party or the number of these parties, he said.

"There was a basic agreement on a host of basic frameworks for the operation of political parties," he said.

According to 'Ubaydat, the framework of action by political parties was only limited by the boundaries of provisions in the Constitution to guarantee that such parties "do not work contrary to the interests of the state." When the idea of the charter was announced many voiced appreciation that the document would serve as an alternative to the Constitution or would be an attempt to sidestep the Constitution, which guarantees a wide spectrum of freedoms, including the freedom to form political parties.

'Ubaydat stressed that the charter does in no way supersede the Constitution and that "constitutional governments following the democratic course need no more than a clarification of these objectives that are based on the Constitution and support the democratic transition."

Another major point of contention during the commission's debates was the role of Islamic Shari'a in the document, according to commission members. There were disagreements on the wording on the role of Shari'a and the relation to the country's legislation, said one member. In the charter Islamic Shari'a is identified as "the major source of legislation" for the country, he said. More liberal members were pushing for a less absolute wording such as "a source of legislation."

'Ubaydat said that during the debates, the Muslim Brotherhood called for more advancement "towards Islamic society."

"In our civil application of legislation, this is already taking place wherever possible," he said. "There are many different interpretations in Islam which provide for sufficient flexibility in dealing with different issues."

'Ubaydat said the Brotherhood did not call for setting up an Islamic state, rather "they recognise that Jordan is already a Muslim state—a parliamentary monarchy with Islam as its religion. They all started from this concept which is in line with the Constitution and the wishes of the people."

Another key issue dealt with in the charter is the question of the national identity of the Jordanian people. This assumes added significance when seen in light of

conflicting assertions as to who constitutes a Jordanian, or whether the mere possession of a Jordanian passport makes a Jordanian citizen.

'Ubaydat said the charter deals with the issue of Jordanians whose origins are from the occupied territories no different from that of Jordanians from the East Bank.

Indeed, he said, the Palestinian "identity is an identity of a struggle with political dimensions, but this does not contradict the Jordanian Arab identity."

In fact, he said the Jordanian identity is a "safeguard for Jordan against the alternative (Palestinian) homeland" theory propagated by Israeli leaders.

The Jordanian identity, the former prime minister said, projects a single "Arab entity in the joint struggle and total rejection of the idea of an alternative homeland."

"There cannot be separate Palestinian and Jordanian institutions in Jordan," he said. "There is no distinction among Jordanians (regardless of their origin) in their rights and obligations regardless of race and religion," he added.

"There are no two peoples in Jordan. There is only one people and national unity is the base for the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship in the present and future," he said. He also pointed out that Jordan had made its position very clear on the status of the residents of the occupied territories when it announced its disengagement from the West Bank in July 1988.

Jordan now issues two-year passports for the Palestinians living in the occupied territories to facilitate their employment and education outside Jordan and occupied territories.

"There is no doubt that the reality of the Israeli occupation, the decision to disengage legally and administrativly from the West Bank and the proclamation of the Palestinian state... and Jordan's recognition of the state has become the basis for future relationship between Jordan and Palestine," 'Ubaydat said.

The long-term future of this relationship, he explained also depends on resolving the Palestinian problem and when the Palestinian people would be able to establish their state. "If there was a liberation or withdrawal from any part of the occupied Palestinian territory and a Palestinian state or entity is established, then this relationship will have to be organised in accordance with the will of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples," 'Ubaydat said.

"In the charter we consider the unity of the two peoples as an example for Arab unity and a means for the continuation of the unity relationship between Jordan and Palestinian," he said. "But we respect the choice of peoples on the form of this relationship."

Coverage of Karami's Formation of New Cabinet

Al-Hirawi Issues Statement

NC2012195890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] An official statement was issued by the Lebanese presidential office this evening in which the president of the republic entrusted Minister 'Umar Karami with forming a new government. The statment was released during a meeting that is still continuing as of now between President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni. Minister 'Umar Karami joined the meeting at 2100.

Karami Statement on Government

NC2012205290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Statement by Prime Minister-Designate 'Umar Karami, followed by remarks in response to questions from unidentified correspondents, during 20 December news conference in Beirut—recorded]

[Text] [Karami] As a result of the legislative consultations held by his excellency the president of the republic, and following consultations with His Excellency Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, his excellency the president invited me and entrusted me with forming a new government.

Of course I would like to affirm that the next government will be a government of reconciliation. I would like to affirm and emphasize that I have disregarded all personal wounds for the interest of saving and uniting Lebanon. The new, future, and expected government will have as its goal disbanding the militias, collecting the weapons, launching the march of development and reconstruction, and retaining only legitimate rifles in Lebanon. This is our goal, this is what we will seek to achieve, and this is what we will sacrifice for.

I fully realize the extent of the great difficulties that will face us. But with faith, firm determination, and sincere cooperation with all the parties, led by his excellency the president of the republic and by the Chamber of Deputies, we will be able to overcome all difficulties, God willing. I am optimistic that we will reach the safehaven sooner than anyone can imagine.

[Correspondent] Will the government be formed by Sunday or Monday?

[Karami] We will begin our legislative consultations tomorrow, and will try to make every effort to end these consultations as soon as possible. On the basis of these consultations, we will, of course, confer with his excellency the president and the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, and announce the formation of the new government as soon as possible.

[Correspondent] Will the government include 30 ministers, as is being reported?

[Karami] It is too early to say. We will have to wait for the legislative consultations to learn the views of the honorable deputies.

[Correspondent] Some parties object to a broad-based government, and even to your designation. What will effect....

[Karami, interrupting] At any rate, we live in a democratic country and are proud of this. We will listen to the view of the honorable deputies, and we will abide by and do whatever the majority decides.

[Correspondent] Is it possible that the party which will object will not participate in the government?

[Karami] We will form the government because the situation in the country does not tolerate delay. The train of peace and unity will move, and I hope that everyone will catch the train.

[Correspondent] How long will your legislative consultations take?

[Karami] We will do the impossible to conclude them as soon as possible.

[Correspondent] In other words, will the government be formed by Sunday?

[Karami] I cannot say. I cannot set a date. I say that I will do my utmost.

Lebanese Forces Reject Methods

NC2112064990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] The newspaper AL-DIYAR quotes a Lebanese Forces responsible source as saying that the Lebanese Forces reject all frameworks and formulas being submitted for forming a new government because these are undemocratic and violate the spirit and mechanism of the al-Ta'if Accord.

The source described the anticipated government as a government of four districts that will govern the center of Lebanon, and added: We will be at the head of the national opposition. We prefer to bear the consequences of this stand in the future rather than to be the tail and heel of a circus government.

The source said that a government of this sort will not be able to get started. In addition to the Lebanese Forces' opposition, it is also facing opposition from Hizballah and problems with the Druze and Walid Junblatt, as well as with the Sunnis of Beirut.

Hizballah Refuses To Participate

NC2112081690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Commenting on its stand regarding the new government to be formed soon, Hizballah has issued a statement, which says in part: The scandalous failure to tackle the country's and the citizens' problems, and to realize and face the fateful dangers threatening our existence and future, is becoming clearer every day. In view of this, the resignation of one government and the formation of another becomes a mere formality that does not touch the essence of the Lebanese problem and does not arrive at its deep roots. [passage omitted]

The statement adds: The repeated stand of the head of the regime toward the resistance movement, which is the honor and pride of the nation, arouses suspicion and concern. Without the sacrifices of the resistance fighters, no homeland, no regime, and no establishment would have been left; those who are today undermining the role of the resistance and ignoring its achievements would not have been able to occupy positions of responsibility.

The statement continues: The continuation of this bitter reality, the absence of a clear concept for the liberation of the south and the protection of its land and inhabitants from the ambitions of the Zionist enemy, and the repetition of suspicious talks on ending the resistance and its role as well as selecting only a political treatment for the issue of the south—all of this prompts us to refuse to take part in a new government which lacks a unified vision, a clear concept, and a minimum of hegemony to tackle the country's problems. [passage omitted]

The statement adds: In view of all these matters, we declare our refusal to take part in the new government. We stress the need for all to cooperate to achieve a just and balanced security, establish civilian peace, and ensure the citizens' livelihoods. Our stand toward the new government will depend on its program for changing the sectarian system, ensuring internal freedoms, and supporting the resistance until the whole land is liberated without letting the usurping enemy profit politically or in security.

AFP Cites Reactions

NC2012205990 Paris AFP in English 2040 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Beirut, Dec 20 (AFP)—'Umar Karami, a 55-year-old Sunni Muslim lawyer, was appointed Thursday as prime minister with the task of forming a government of national unity, officials said.

Mr. Karami, the education minister under Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, who handed in his cabinet's resignation Wednesday, was appointed after a day of consultations between President Ilyas al-Hirawi and 49 of the 67 MPs in office.

The new premier is a brother of former prime minister Rashid Karami, who was assassinated in June 1987.

Mr. al-Huss's resignation had been expected and was designed to pave the way for the formation of a broadly-based government that would include the Christian militia Lebanese Forces (LF).

The al-Huss cabinet was formed after the election in November 1989 of Mr. al-Hirawi as head of state under an Arab peace plan for Lebanon.

The appointment of Mr. Karami was immediately criticised from different sides, including the LF, the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) of Druze leader Walid Junblatt and the Shiite fundamentalist movement Hizballah.

The LF's television station said the consultations between the president and MPs had been a mere formality and warned that "such procedures harm the process of national understanding."

The process could trigger a "government crisis... on top of the political, economic and security crises," the PSP said.

"The consultations have no value and the deputies were called upon to ratify a choice that was made without their agreement. This will be a government of fait accompli," it said.

Najah Wakim, who at 43 is Lebanon's youngest member of parliament, was also critical as he left the president's residence.

"If the government is made up of the names that are going round, it will be a real catastrophe. The militias have ruled for 15 years—and now we want to legitimize them and hand over the country to them," he said.

The pro-Iranian group Hizballah said it would not take part in a government "without a unified vision." It urged the new administration to change the country's confessional system and support the anti-Israeli resistance.

Mr. Karami said later Thursday that he proposed to form a government of reconciliation charged with "disbanding the militias and starting the process of reconstruction and development."

"The next government will be a cabinet of reconciliation. I insist on this point because I have recovered from my own wound in the interests of Lebanon, to save and unite the country," he told a press conference.

Mr. Karami, blaming the LF for his brother's murder, has in the past refused to join a government that included the Christian militia chief Samir Ja'ja'.

Weapons Reportedly Delivered to SSNP Office

NC2012210790 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Excerpt] The actions of the gunmen spread out in the two al-Matn regions are continuously escalating. Following the assassination of the head of the Phalangist Party branch in al-Zalqah and the blowing up of the Phalangist Party office in al-Hazimiyah, it has been reported that a load of weapons and ammunition has been delivered to the newly-established Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] office in the Ruwaysat al-Judaydah area. Civilian vehicles have transported Kalashnikov rifles and their ammunition as well as B-7 launchers and their ammunition to this party office to be distributed among the gunmen for storage in their houses. [passage omitted]

U.S. Vote in Favor of UN Resolution Reported

JN2112061590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Excerpts] New York—Yesterday, the UN Security Council approved with a unanimous vote a resolution on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Israeli practices against the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories. The resolution affirmed the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of land by force and stressed the need to find ways and means to protect the Palestinians under Israeli occupation and apply the Fourth Geneva Convention on all occupied Arab territories. [passage omitted]

It is worth noting that the United States of America voted in favor of the resolution and the [Security Council] president's statement, in harmony with its position that was crystallized during the Geneva summit meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President George Bush and subsequent contacts and exchanges by the two parties—Syria and the United States—that were announced by the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY—SANA on 10 December after the meeting between Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

'First Positive Development'

JN2112114690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has described the Security Council resolution on the Arab-Israeli conflict and Israeli practices against the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territory as an important step on the right path. In a statement to REUTER today, al-Shar' said that protecting Palestinians who are under the yoke of the Israeli occupation under UN supervision and by agreement of the Security Council members in an independent statement issued by the Security Council president on holding an international conference at the appropriate time—with U.S. agreement—constitutes the first positive development in the U.S. position on the Arab- Isaeli conflict since the American-Soviet statement was issued in 1977.

Al-Shar' said: This first announcement on holding an international conference confirms Syria's view calling for separating the Gulf crisis from the Arab-Israeli conflict. He noted that not linking the two problems does not mean ignoring the Israeli occupation of the Arab territory or forgetting the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights.

Further on Kuwaiti Ministers' Visit to Damascus

Syrian Stance Praised

JN2112075390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] Dr. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub, Kuwaiti information minister and minister of state for National Assembly affairs, yesterday left Damascus following a four-day visit to Syria, during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad. He also held talks with Information Minister Muhammad Salman on information cooperation between the two sisterly countries.

He was seen off by Information Minister Muhammad Salman, the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus, and the Embassy staff. Before leaving Damascus, al-Ya'qub held a news conference attended by the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus and a number of journalists and correspondents of Arab and foreign news agencies in Damascus.

At the outset of the conference, the Kuwaiti information minister voiced his happiness at meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad. He said: If the matter was left up to me, I would have sat with his excellency for a long time, because he is a first-class political leader and a man of history, who is making Arab history with his firm pan-Arab stands that have been proved to be correct, honest, and firm.

The minister vehemently denounced the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the murder and expulsion of women, children, and men. He said: We in Kuwait and the Arab world hope that Iraq will withdraw from Kuwait so that the Iraqi people and Army will be spared a destructive war, which we do not hope will occur. However, the Iraqi president's intransigence make such a war likely.

The Kuwaiti information minister pointed out that the Iraqi president claims to have a historical right to Kuwait. This allegation is legally unfounded, because Kuwait was an independent entity even before Iraq, and Kuwait has never belonged to anyone or any other state, as has been confirmed by historians.

He also refuted Iraq's claims that Kuwait steals the oil of al-Rumaylah oilfield. He said: We extract only one percent of what Iraq extracts from al-Rumaylah oilfield.

Responding to Iraq's allegations about the distribution of wealth, the minister wondered: Where is Iraq's wealth, and to whom was this wealth distributed? He said: The Iraqi people themselves live in poverty and misery because of the Iraqi president's reckless policies and personal ambitions.

Regarding Iraq's attempts to link the Palestine and Kuwaiti issues, Dr. al-Ya'qub said: With such a linkage, he [Saddam Husayn] wants to make people forget the Palestine question. If he is really concerned for the Palestine question and the Palestinian revolution, then he should not have fought a destructive war with Iran at a time when Iran was proclaiming its support for the Palestinian people in their legitimate struggle—a war which divided Arab and Muslim ranks. At the end, the Iraqi president abandoned all his demands.

The Kuwaiti minister explained that by invading Kuwait, Iraq has harmed the Palestine question and our kinfolk's valiant intifadah in the occupied Arab territories because the financial resources which had been extended to it

evaporated. Also, aid offered by the Palestinian people to the kinfolk in the occupied homeland was halted, because Iraq confiscated the aid, because Iraq confiscated their wealth in Kuwait. The Gulf [words indistinct] his excellency is a man of firm principles. We in Kuwait appreciate this pan-Arab stand, and we thank him for the facilities offered to the Kuwaiti citizens residing in Syria, particularly to Kuwaiti students.

Regarding cooperation, the minister said: We have formulated executive programs for information cooperation with Syria with the aim of protecting Arab public opinion and supporting Arab solidarity vis-a-vis the Arab nation's enemies.

Regarding Kuwait's position on the Palestine question and the Palestinian people, the Kuwaiti information minister said: Kuwait will always support the Palestinian people and their cause, and there is no going back on this. We will support the Palestinian cause until the fraternal Palestinian people regain all of their rights.

Answering a question on [Iraq's] partial withdrawal from Kuwait and keeping certain Kuwaiti areas, he said: Not a single grain of the homeland's soil will be abandoned.

Regarding the foreign presence in the Gulf, the Kuwaiti minister said in conclusion of his press conference: Who was behind the arrival of these troops? He stressed that the foreign and friendly troops will withdraw after the liberation of Kuwait, and emphasized that this presence is temporary, not permanent.

Khaddam Meets With Ministers

JN2012154690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam this afternoon received Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah, finance minister of the State of Kuwait; Dr. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub, minister of information and state for National Assembly affairs; and Badr Mishari al-Humaydi, head of the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development.

The meeting was attended by Information Minister Muhammad Salman, Finance Minister Khalid al-Mahayini, and Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim, Kuwait's ambassador in Damascus.

They discussed the Arab situation in general and the Gulf crisis and its developments. Al-Sabah and al-Ya'qub praised Syria's pan-Arab stands, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, toward the issues of the region, particularly the Gulf crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

JN2112072590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] A media cooperation agreement was signed this morning by the Information Ministries in the Syrian Arab Republic and the State of Kuwait.

The accord was signed for the Syrian Arab side by Information Minister Muhammad Salman, and for the Kuwaiti side Dr. Badr al-Ya'qub, information and state minister for National Assembly affairs. Present at the ceremony were Adib Ghanam, the minister's assistant; the delegation accompanying Dr. al-Ya'qub; and Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim, Kuwait's ambassador in Damascus.

The program provides for cooperation between the two fraternal countries in the area of radio and television, news agencies, radio engineering, training, foreign and domestic media, the press, publications, specialized consultations, and whatever will develop and deepen the relations of media cooperation between the Syrian Arab republic and the State of Kuwait in order to realize mutual objectives and serve the one Arab cause.

Fund To Lend 30 Million Dinars

JN2012182090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] The Syrian Arab Republic and the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development signed a cooperation agreement this afternoon at the hall of the Syrian Central Bank this afternoon. Under the agreement, the fund will provide a loan of 30 million Kuwaiti dinars to help finance the Damascus city sanitary sewage project.

The agreement was signed for Syria by Dr. Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs, and for the Kuwaiti Fund by Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah, minister of finance of the State of Kuwait.

The signing ceremony was attended by Syrian Finance Minister Dr. Khalid al-Mahayini, the director general of the Kuwaiti Arab Economic Development Fund, and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus.

The minister of state for planning affairs said he was happy to have met with the Kuwaiti brothers, and to see this development of cooperation between the two fraternal countries. He also expressed the hope that the ordeal the fraternal Kuwaiti people are suffering as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait will be over soon, and that right is restored to its owners.

For his part, 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah said these steps are not the first nor will they be the last, but that they will be followed by many steps in the development and investment areas to promote the existing cooperation between the two fraternal countries. He expressed thanks and appreciation for Syria's pan-Arab stand toward the Gulf crisis.

Al-Asad Confers With Kuwaitis

JN2012212690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] At 1730 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Dr. Badr al-Ya'qub, information and state minister for National Council affairs of the State of Kuwait.

The meeting was attended by Information Minister Muhammad Salman and Kuwaiti Ambassador to Syria Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim.

Dr. al-Ya'qub conveyed to the president the greetings of Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait. The president asked him to also convey his greetings to the amir.

They talked about the Gulf crisis, the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, and the Arab rejection of the occupation.

Commentary on Syrian-Saudi-Egyptian Meeting

JN2012162190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, the Gulf crisis has intensified and escalated these days with the approach of the deadline set by Security Council Resolution 678 which authorizes the use of force against Iraq if it does not withdraw from Kuwait by 15 January.

Up until now, there is no hopeful sign that Iraq will accept withdrawal from Kuwait. Therefore, the area is charged with tension and apprehension. Everyone is tormented by a question: Will war take place? Will fighting break out suddenly? The impact of the shock generated by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait is still alive. People in the Gulf cannot believe their eyes and ears, which tell them that this blow has been delivered to them by fraternal Iraq, a country they supported with all they had through an unjust eight-year war against Iran.

Nonetheless, no one here wants war, and no one wishes a military explosion against Iraq, if it responds to the withdrawal resolution. However, the game of temporizing, and intransigence and arrogance in the face of regional and international consensus gets on a person's nerves and raises many incomprehensible questions. The picture of the formula on the ground is clear. It unambiguously indicates that the biggest loser will be Iraq, its economy and army. So, in whose interest is this persisting arrogance and recalcitrance? It has become axiomatic that the continuation of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the persistence in this grave error serves no pan-Arab or national Iraqi interest.

Based on the above, all the people in the region have become convinced that Iraq, and its Army and economy, are not the possession of an individual or a ruler, but are the possession of the Arab nation and its fateful issues. Therefore, this Arab country should not be wasted no matter the form.

This great concern, however, has collided with Iraqi inflexibility and rejection of all honest voices working for the interest of the Iraqi people and Army. There has been an intensive examination of and search for all avenues to avoid the evils of a destructive explosion and establish peace and stability in the region. In this difficult process of search, however, and after Iraq blew up the foundations of an Arab solution and gave foreign forces a chance to capitalize on the crisis, all eyes are intently focused on the tripartite Syrian-Saudi-Egyptian meeting, which, in everyone's calculations, constitutes a distinguished Arab weight and a focal point for all parties. Keeping this in mind, when a regional Arab force crystallizes through this meeting, it will provide future security guarantees, which all parties see as a pressing need.

Perhaps the convening in the next two days of the Gulf Cooperation Council summit for the first time since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, in light of what current developments in the region have produced, strengthens everyone's realization of the importance of achieving pan-Arab self-security, which is a guarantee for everybody.

The crisis has generated a deep feeling about the need for security and solidarity. This feeling, therefore, triggered a process of cooperation with those honest brothers who have not hesitated to offer help in the darkest circumstances. The arrival of Arab Syrian and Egyptian forces on Saudi soil and the Gulf has bolstered the feelings of fraternal pan-Arab solidarity. The presence of these forces, moreover, came as a significant reply to the scheme to deny and repudiate Arab unity, when Iraq abolished the State of Kuwait by force under false unionist claims.

In light of the atmosphere of tension and escalation, people are living in apprehension and anticipation in the hope that the Iraqi leadership will at the last moment respond to the voice of reason and thus spare the Iraqi people, Army, and resources an imminent disaster.

Bangladesh

Former Vice President Arrested in Dhaka

BK2012161090 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Former Vice President Moudud Ahmed has been arrested. He was arrested from Baridhahra in Dhaka and interned in his Gulshan residence under the Special Powers Act. A police press release says a special squad of the Detective Branch raided a house at Baridhara where the former vice president was absconding after the fall of the Ershad regime. Police are also trying to arrest other ministers and accomplices of the ousted government.

Official on Tin Bigha, River Water Issues

BK2012141090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Bangladesh has sought India's cooperation for early solution of the Tin Bigha corridor issue. In an interview with Indian journalists in Dhaka last night, the foreign [affairs] adviser to the acting president, Mr. Fakhruddin Ahmed, said this would strengthen bilateral relations. He also suggested early resumption of talks on the river water issue. Mr. Ahmed said a meeting of the concerned officials of the two countries should be held to facilitate the repatriation of Bangladeshi nationals from Tripura.

Commentary on Need for 'Unfettered Press'

BK2012150790 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Station Commentary]

[Text] The nation is at crossroads. It has reached a historic milestone from where it must proceed forward on the path to a democratic order. The general election on the 27th February will form a representative parliament which will decide the future form of government, the country's domestic and foreign policies and its economic strategy. Apparently the upcoming election will decide the destiny of the nation. It will set Bangladesh on the path to a stable democracy and enliven the moribund political institutions on which stability is achievable.

The popular uprising of the people which toppled the autocratic regime a fortnight ago is a clear verdict for democracy. The systematic manner in which the political institutions had been defiled in the past nine years has clearly weakened the base on which to build the future course of a democratic order. The interim government has to undertaken the task of sweeping away the dirt and the grime which have collected on the political plane. It is a great deal of house cleaning operation during which a lot of skeletons from the cupboard will be exposed. The government has taken up the task in right earnest and it will need the cooperation of all to achieve success in this undertaking. The exposure of the past is necessary to prevent in future such a moral and political degradation.

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed has been meeting with political parties, the professional groups and the citizen bodies seeking their cooperation in maintaining a proper climate for the elections. Yesterday at a meeting with the representatives of the media, he underlined the need for the journalists to play their role in the holding of proper elections. The media in Bangladesh had always played a key and constructive role during critical times of the nation. From the historic language movement in 1952 to the independence struggle in 1971, the media was in the vanguard of the popular uprising. But from time to time, journalists were prevented from fulfilling their assigned responsibility of the watchdog. Through legal provisions like the Special Powers Act and the Printing and Publication Ordinance, the freedom of the press was curbed or at best limited. The restrictive laws were used whenever the authorities felt the truth to be unpalatable or when they wanted the things to be swept under the carpet and not see the light of the day. A free press is a key element in multiparty democracy where all kinds of opinions have to be expressed without fear or favor. It also laudable that the interim government has given attention to the issue of unshackling the press as the nation prepares for the elections.

Justice Shahabuddin said that his government was giving due consideration to the question of repealing the Special Powers Act. There can be a good government only when there is a free press constantly scrutinizing the official actions and weighing the impact such actions have on the people. The ears of the government would then be more to the ground than in the so-called ivory towers. Such an unfettered press keeps democracy alive.

From now till the formation of an elected government is a crucial period. The political parties will have to show their maturity by strengthening the democratic atmosphere through tolerance of others opinion as the electoral campaign rolls on. After a long time there is the bright possibility of a true democratic order in Bangladesh, of a representative parliament and of a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. The world is certainly watching Bangladesh as it marches on to fulfill the arduous task.

India

Shekhar Denies Janata Dal-S, Congress-I Rift

BK2112094290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] The prime minister has denied that there are any differences between his party Janata Dal-S and the Congress-I. Speaking to newsmen shortly after his arrival in Calcutta on a day's visit last night, he said such speculations are only rumors. Mr. Chandra Shekhar added that there is no proposal for a coalition government with the Congress-I at the center. The prime minister also ruled out the possibility of a mid-term poll.

When his attention was drawn to the CPI-M [Communist Party of India - Marxist] allegation that he had betrayed the people's mandate by taking the support of the Congress-I to form the government, Mr. Chandra Shekhar retorted that he is guided by his own opinion and is discharging his duty to the nation. He also denied that there is any threat to the Mulayam Singh Yadav government in Uttar Pradesh.

On India seeking a loan from the IMF to tide over the present economic crisis, the prime minister said the matter will be considered but much would depend on the condition attached to such a loan by the world body.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar was accorded a warm welcome on his first visit to West Bengal after taking over as the prime minister and was received by the West Bengal governor, Professor Nurul Hassan, and the chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, among others. He will hold discussions with the chief minister, Mr. Basu, this morning and later address the local business community. The prime minister is also scheduled to lay the foundation stone of a drug deaddiction center being set up by a charitable institute with the technical help of an American agency at the cost of 18 million rupees.

40 Pakistan-Trained Kashmiri Militants Surrender

BK2012145490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] In the Kashmir Valley, 40 Pakistan-trained militants today surrendered to the authorities with their arms. According to an official spokesman, these militants belonged to some outlawed terrorist organizations. While surrendering, the militants said that they wanted to leave violence and live a peaceful life with other citizens.

Three Militants Killed, 77 Arrested In Kashmir

BK2112094890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] In Kashmir valley, security forces have foiled a major bid of infiltration by the Pakistan-trained militants in Kupwara sector yesterday. Three militants were killed and 77 arrested by the security forces. Six machine guns, 44 AK-47 rifles, 40 pistols, seven rocket launchers, and a large quantity of ammunition and explosives were recovered from their possession. The three militants killed in the firing by the security forces were trying to escape.

Meanwhile, the state government has decided to release 16 alleged militants on parole, who were detained earlier.

'Extremists' Abduct BJP Legislator, 7 Others

BK2112094690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] MLA [Member of Legislative Assembly], Mr. V. Jaipal, and seven others have been abducted by extremists from different places in Warangal District since last night. Also adbucted included two engineers of the Sri Ram Sagar project in Rangapur village and the mandal [zonal] development officer of Megulapalli.

Composite Security Force Formation Considered

BK2112102190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] The center is considering formation of a composite security force drawn from Army and other paramilitary forces. This force will be deployed in all the states to strengthen the state security infrastructure and to contain terrorism. This was disclosed by the minister of state for home, Mr. Subodh Kant, at Manesar near Gurgaon in Haryana today after witnessing the training activities of National Security Guard [NSG] in (?a camp). He told newsmen that Gujarat has taken steps to raise such a force. The minister said the center will give 50 percent subsidy and 50 percent interest-free loans to state governments for setting up the force.

Earlier, Mr. Subodh Kant witnessed a field demonstration shown by NSG personnel and went round an exhibition of explosive mechanisms seized from terrorists. He also distributed medals for distinguished and meritorious services to NSG personnel.

Government To Give Export Effort Top Priority

BK2112101090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] The government will give top priority to the export effort to tide over the difficult balance of payment situation. This was stated by the union commerce minister, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, while addressing the parliamentary consultative committee meeting of his ministry in New Delhi yesterday. Dr. Swamy said in the short run, the government will have to act on several fronts, including export promotion and import containment. But in the long run, the only viable solution lies in achieving a much better export performance.

Iran

'Slight Possibility' of Iraqi Withdrawal Seen

LD2012150390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] On the 1,400th anniversary of the martyrdom of Her Holiness Zahra, the beloved daughter of the honorable prophet, peace be on her, a number of ulema, Friday prayer leaders, and members, and members of the association of Tehran preachers met Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, this morning.

Following ceremonies marking the remembrance of the martyrdom of that immaculate and pious martyr, Mr.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani offered condolences to all Muslims, especially the revolutionary people of Iran.

Later, explaining the economic and social situation of Iran and the main international issues, the president reminded his audience that Islamic Iran would be developed into a model for Islamic and deprived nations of the world to emulate. He said the executive affairs of the country would be dealt with within the framework of the Five-Year Plan, the guidelines of which were formulated according to the policies laid down during the time of the imam of the ummah, may he be admitted to God's paradise, by a policy-making council appointed by him and then approved by him. meanwhile, the country's important affairs and the formulation of policy on them are entrusted to the jurisconsult [Khamene'i], and examined in the Supreme National Security Council. Then the decisions made by that council must be approved by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the honourable Leader, the president said.

The president added: The long-cherished aspiration of the Muslims to have an Islamic government has now been realized after many centuries. Now we are duty-bound to attend to infrastructural works to make this country a model for emulation.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: If our society is a society afflicted by poverty, ignorance, and dependence on the outside world, if it fails to live in harmony with universal science, civilization and technology, then it is not possible to turn it into a model society. If we are really determined to present the country to the world as a model Islamic society, then we must keep in mind the objectives and the aspirations of the Islamic revolution and the divine culture of Islam, and we must do so fully and comprehensively. A poverty-ridden and defeated society cannot be a model for emulation. While we must shun extravagance, we must provide relative welfare for all the members of the nation, he asserted.

Referring to the fact that the country was lagged behind because of the period of revolution and need to maintain the independence of the country during the imposed war, the president said: The government has based its work on the establishment of infrastructural projects; and in the interests of the revolution, the major part of the country's resources has been allocated to these projects, which take a long time to show a return on ivested resources.

The president expressed the hope that through an increase in manufactured goods and the advent of an economic boom the problem of supply and demand would arrive at an equilibrium. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that subsidies on a number of basic goods would be maintained until economic equilibrium was achieved.

Referring to serious difficulties in ways and means of campaigning against social vices, the president said: That problem must be solved from the roots. Through the presentation of Islam's logical edicts it is possible to convince all individuals of the need to shun prohibited acts. However, at times, incorrect methods of imposing prohibitons [ehtiyat] on people would rebound in the form of antiprohibition [zed-e ehtiyat]. If we want to campaign against social vices we must also keep in mind Islam's magnanimity.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed the hope that the Persian Gulf crisis would be resolved in a desirable way. Criticizing the presence of alien forces in the Persian Gulf, he demanded Iraq's unconditional departure from Kuwait. At the same time the president pointed out that there was a considerable and serious possibility of war breaking out, but there was also a slight possibility that Iraq might start pulling out at the last moment.

In conclusion, the president prayed to God and wished success to the clergymen. According to the report, at the beginning of the meeting Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Nateg-Nuri, the secretary of the Tehran Preachers Association, submitted a report on the activities of the association to the president.

Commentary Examines Relations With Gulf States

LD1712130990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1106 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Station commentary: "Mr. Velayati's Trip to the Persian Gulf States"]

[Text] Within the context of a fresh regional diplomatic move, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, left the Qatar emirate for Amman yesterday. During his tour, the Iranian foreign minister will visit a number of Arab Persian Gulf states, and will review and discuss the current crisis and security issues of this sensitive and strategic region with the leaders of those countries.

Further clarifying Iran's sensitive role in the region and in the current situation is the sensitivity of the situation, its worrying prospects, and the need for long-term stability and security in the Persian Gulf—on the one hand, for the purpose of laying foundations for economic growth and expansion; and on the other, for our country's geo-political situation and her control over the most sensitive part of the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz. This is particularly true since Iran has sole control over the northern coastlines of the Persian Gulf and is considered the largest, most populated, and strongest Persian Gulf littoral state.

Considering this position, many political experts believe the main reason behind the failure of the nine-year-old Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] is that the council has ignored the most important geographic and historical fact about the region, which plays a significant and determining role. Furthermore, the unrealistic policies of the council in giving extensive military, economic, political, and propaganda support to aggression throughout the imposed war dealt the council the coup de grace.

One of the council member countries is now occupied by another. The unprecedented presence of U.S. and European troops has pushed the region to the brink of a destructive war with an unknown outcome and has, once again, made the long-term security and stability of the region the focal point of talks and activities of the regional countries.

The developments in the situation, as well as the inability of the GCC to safeguard the security of its members, have once again demonstrated the significance of Iran's role in the establishment of long-term stability and security in the region. The Persian Gulf littoral states now clearly understood that since Iran possesses the longest sea borders and enormous oil and gas reserves, and also adheres to Islamic ideology, she does not covet weaker countries in the region and could thus be a good ally for them against any form of aggression.

At present, Iran has close ties with most Persian Gulf littoral states; our country's firm and fundamental stand in condemning the occupation of Kuwait, the presence of foreign troops in the region, and the absence of an effective security system leave no room for doubt for any informed observer about Iran's role as the only country capable of filling that gap. In fact, one should regard this as the reason behind the willingness of those countries to get closer and closer to Iran.

Political experts in the region consider Mr. Velayati's trip on the eve of the GCC summit as important and believe that such visits could be effective in finding a peaceful solution to the crisis, restoring security, and foreign troops departing from the region.

Commentary Discusses Developments in Gulf

NC1912094790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Commentary by Central News Unit Research Group]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. Following a joint session of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council and Ba'th Party leadership, Baghdad once again announced that Kuwait is an indivisible part of Iraq. Meanwhile, the U.S. President has warned Iraq that it must withdraw from Kuwait before midnight on 15 January.

Baghdad and Washington's reiteration of their stands, their exchange of threats, and their announcements of readiness to withstand a devastating war—for which each side will blame the other—have once again created a storm in the already troubled seas of the Persian Gulf crisis.

Meanwhile, the Algerian president's failure to achieve a breakthrough, which would most likely take the form of talks between the local parties to the conflict—that is, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait on the one side and Iraq on the other—has greatly diminished hopes of an Arab solution.

Following a tour of the countries involved in or affected by the crisis—including Iraq, Iran, Oman, Syria, Lebanon, and Egypt—Bendjedid left the region for Tunis. The Algerian president's comments at the conclusion of his visit to Damascus, in which he acknowledged that the prospects for an Arab solution have diminished, indicate that the Arab sides actually embroiled in the confrontation with Iraq will not allow another axis, in addition to the Iraq-U.S. axis, to be established to resolve the crisis.

Political experts note that since the adoption of UN Resolution 678 authorizing the use of force, all diplomatic efforts for a peaceful solution have been geared around the U.S.-Iraqi axis. In any case, the dwindling of the prospects for an Arab or regional breakthrough has increased the likelihood of foreign intervention in the region, something that is in itself a source of apprehension. [passage omitted]

A devastating war or an armed truce stands to benefit neither Iraq nor the region, but only the United States. Overall, the following conclusions can be drawn: First, Iraq and the United States are both terrified by the idea of a bloody war in the region. They recognize each other's fear and are attempting to capitalize on it to make the other side surrender. Second, both sides claim and insist that a final solution should come through negotiations. Third, despite this insistence, the two sides have differences over the timing of such negotiations, and each side considers negotiations as an instrument to achieve it objectives. Fourth, Iraq is prepared to make certain concessions, but is seeking to extort certain others in return.

Ultimately, this contest cannot conclude to Iraq's advantage. At present only an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwaiti territory, the departure of foreign forces from the region, and the ensuring of regional security by the states of the region themselves will secure the general interests of all these countries, including Iraq.

Iraqi Release of Western Hostages Examined

NC2012181790 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 9 Dec 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Suspicion of a Secret U.S.-Iraq Deal"]

[Text] Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, in an unexpected move, has decided to free all Western hostages in Iraq and Kuwait. The Iraqi Parliament Friday overwhelmingly endorsed the decision.

The totally unpredictable move by Saddam raises a few questions. During the past four months, foreign hostages have been used as "human shields" against a U.S.-led attack, but why has he decided all of a sudden to release all foreign hostages at once?

United Nations Security Council Resolution 678 gives Iraq an ultimatum to evacuate Kuwait by January 15. According to political and military analysts, if an attack is launched against Iraqi occupation forces in Kuwait,

the greatest probability is that such an attack will occur between January 15 and the end of February.

The start of March coincides with the holy fasting month of Ramadan and it would be very difficult for the U.S. and its allies to launch an attack against Iraqi forces in the period following. Political and strategic considerations may have impelled Saddam using the hostages as human shields to deter an attack between Jan. 15 and the end of February. With respect to the political dexterity of the Iraqi leaders, it is difficult to believe that Saddam's move is motivated merely from humanitarian considerations.

What is more probable is that during the past few days a series of secret negotiations have taken place between Washington and Baghdad, which have led to Saddam's decision and seemingly he has obtained the necessary guarantees of immunity from attack in deciding to release the foreign hostages.

Moreover in response to Saddam's latest move, the Americans announced their agreement to evacuate their diplomats from the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait and all points to a pre-planned secret deal.

Those countries who desire to see a political and peaceful settlement to the Persian Gulf crisis, such as the Soviet Union and France, immediately declared their satisfaction at the latest moves by Washington and Baghdad.

Despite repeated public denials of any secret accord, we should wait and see in the coming days whether a secret agreement was reached or not.

Fall of Kuwaiti House of Al-Sabah Examined

NC2012193990 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 10 Dec 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Closing the Al-Sabah Chapter"]

[Text] If only the least is to be said about the former Kuwaiti ruling family in the context of the bloody Iran-Iraq war, it is that it took sides more than others. Of course the Saudi monarch was President Saddam Husayn's most important ally and bankroller, but Kuwait was never far behind. The emirate's diplomacy, petrodollars, media, territory... were consistently at the disposal of Baghdad. A time came in the 1980-88 war years when Iranian combatants and policymakers were calling for a full-fledged interdiction operation against the tiny Persian Gulf emirate, because there were enough indications to suggest that Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah's regime was directly involved in maintaining Iraq's formidable military machine.

Encouraged by the unlimited backing from Kuwait City and Riyadh, Iraq continued to level Iranian towns and villages with missiles. Schools, hospitals and homes came under direct hits, while the al-Sabah family wasted no effort to blast Tehran's revolutionary leadership and introduced Iran as a warmonger on the international political scene. Tens of thousands of our children were orphaned, women widowed, and fathers buried their fallen sons. Shaykh Jabir's rule in Kuwait throughout the 1980s brokered immense suffering for the Muslim masses in Iran because it was a rich and influential rulership in the region. There is no doubt in our minds that Iraq fought the major part of the war with Kuwait and Saudi money. Had it been otherwise, Saddam Husayn's aggression would have been stopped in the early stages of the imposed conflict.

On Kuwait's domestic scene the record was equally unconscionable. In a country of not more than 800,000 people, the pro-Western shaykhs ruled with an iron-hand. Muslim Kuwaitis opposed to the repressive political system and ruinous policies vis-a-vis regional security and stability were labelled as fundamentalists or pro-Iranian terrorists. Over the years the al-Sabah family became so obsessed with power and image that it urged Western intelligence agencies and respective governments to hunt for anti-Sabah Kuwaitis (mostly students) and deport them back home. The British government has an excellent record in this respect. A few weeks before Shaykh Jabir was disgraced, London threw out two Kuwaiti students 'accusing' them of working against Britain's national security and interests. Not surprising in view of London's 'historic' relations with the al-Sabah family, greed and animosity towards true Muslims.

Now the idea that Iran should acquiesce to 'friendly pressure' and adjust its foreign policy with regard to the latest Persian Gulf crisis is abhorrent. Whatever its course and regional mission, the Islamic Republic of Iran should not forget that Shaykh Jabir leadership was devious, corrupt, subservient and fanatically anti-Iran. While making public and private remarks our statesmen should exercise caution and not confuse the liberation of Kuwait with the restoration of its royalty.

Leadership in Kuwait, as is the case in other Arab states in the region, was a strongly guarded family operation. All the key positions and even 'sensitive' jobs in universities and youth clubs were held by the emir's kith and kin. Any voice of dissent was suppressed. Democracy, parliamentary rule and freedom of expression was a luxury the al-Sabah billionaires could hardly afford. The royal family, though one of the most vulnerable and fragile in this part of the world, grossly miscalculated its own abilities and cared very little for the feelings of the nation's overwhelmingly Muslim society. On Aug. 2 the Iraqi military underlined the al-Sabah's fragility, and more importantly, the sickness of the royal mind.

The list of Kuwaitis who believe that Shaykh Jabir rule is primarily responsible for the loss and humiliation of their country is not short. Today more than 15,000 Kuwaitis live in Islamic Iran. Many of the 3,000 plus families enjoying Iranian hospitality for the past four months have no interest in the corrupt al-Sabah household and openly curse the powers talking about the legitimacy of the deposed rulership.

The majority of Kuwaitis living in self or forced exile are in agreement on one important point—the future government in their country should be elected through a democraic process. It is better that the reinstatement of the al-Sabahs be ruled out in explicit terms. The dynasty should become history, only to be read about in textbooks. The former rulers' foreign policy was tantamount to treason and Allah has punished them for their crimes; this is the position most Kuwaitis take in response to the destruction of what is known as the oldest dynasty in the Persian Gulf region.

The starting point of any Iranian initiative towards finding a solution to the latest crisis should be the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from the occupied country. Under no circumstances should the agenda have anything to do with the much publicized U.S. call—restoration of Shaykh Jabir. After Kuwait is liberated its own people will be the best judge to decide what the al-Sabah's deserve and choose their future leaders.

Kuwaiti delegations may come and go to Tehran to solicit support for the al-Sabah cause and even shed crocodile tears over the devastation in Iran to which Shaykh Jabir and company contributed so generously. The Islamic Republic Foreign Ministry should not try to ignore the fact that our own people, Kuwaitis and those who support our revolution, have their attention focussed on Iranian diplomacy and the lengths we are ready to go for safeguarding our principles and aims. It would be a great tragedy if Iran, having endured great suffering for many years, were now to miss the opportunity to defend its declared objectives and do justice to Muslims in Iran and the Kuwaitis wanting to live with honor and freedom.

Effect of Oil Price Fluctuations Highlighted

NC1712110290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Commentary by Central News Unit Research Group]

[Text] In the name of God. As the possibility of solving the Persian Gulf crisis by negotiation has waned and the crisis has escalated, the price of crude oil has soared on the international market over the past two days. According to petroleum sources, the price per barrel of West Texas Intermediate, which stood at $26.55 on Friday, rose to more than $28 yesterday. This increase occurred upon reports that talks between Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and U.S. President George Bush had been canceled.

Thus, with the talks in abeyance, once again prospects for amicably resolving the Persian Gulf crisis diminished and resulted in an upward spiral in oil prices. In the four months since the crisis began, oil prices have seen sharp oscillations in accordance with reports on the Gulf situation, and this when the 88th OPEC session has ended only a few days ago.

At the 88th OPEC session—which began at the end of last week in Geneva with all 13 OPEC members present—the OPEC petroleum ministers approved a free ceiling for all member countries as part of efforts for an amicable settlement of the Gulf crisis and until the crisis ends. They agreed that, following an amicable conclusion of the crisis, the countries will revert to the earlier ceilings of 22.5 million barrels per day and the flat rate of $21 per barrel.

At present, with the turbulent situation in the Persian Gulf and the increase in demand as winter approaches, a free ceiling for oil production will not create any problems for world demand. With a peaceful settlement, however, the oil market will be confronted with the problem of a glut in the oil supply, with dwindled demand for summer at the onset of spring, and with the concomitant difficulty of the Western strategic oil reserves. This may cause oil prices to slump to less than $20 per barrel.

Therefore, it does not seem farfetched that in the event of a change in the situation, OPEC might convene an extraordinary session before its scheduled spring session. The main apprehension over a free oil ceiling is whether the OPEC members in general, and Saudi Arabia in particular, will reduce their production in the future when the Persian Gulf crisis is solved and will revert to the ceiling OPEC specified before the crisis began.

The quota specified for Saudi Arabia's oil production is approximately 5.4 million barrels per day, while this country is now producing more than 8 million barrels per day so that it can pay for the enormous expenses of deploying U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf. Thus, in the event of the conclusion of the Persian Gulf crisis, OPEC should be able to provide the necessary levers for the decrease in the excessive oil production and to maintain the flat rate of $21 per barrel.

At present, in view of the fact that the termination of the Gulf crisis by political or military means cannot be predicted by oil experts or the OPEC ministers, OPEC policy for the post-crisis period therefore has a direct link with the manner in which the issue is settled. OPEC's abstention during the current session from any forecasts or intensive assessment of the level of supply and demand for the next year—contrary to past practice, and in view of the fact that estimates for the demand for OPEC oil were made only for the first quarter of the year—stemmed from the unknown effects the Persian Gulf crisis will have on member countries.

Paper Calls for Solution to Muslims' Problems

NC2012212190 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 16 Dec 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Islamic Solidarity Is Must for Solution to Muslims' Issues"]

[Text] Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid left Tehran on Friday after heading a high-ranking political delegation that met the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and other leading officials.

Increasing diplomatic shuttles to the Islamic Republic extends the closeness between Islamic countries and highly contribute to the expansion of relations with Iran.

Furthermore, the adoption of common stances by Muslim states, under the present conditions, where the Islamic World is faced with several crisis, such as the Palestinian issue, Kashmir, and the Persian Gulf crisis, is of particular significance and importance.

Any settlement of the problems of Muslims in resolving the existing crises in the Islamic world obviously would not be possible in the absence of unity and solidarity among the Islamic countries.

The potential strength of the Islamic World easily can be turned to a united front, which not only could resolve the issues of Muslims but become a determining international power.

Algeria is among the Islamic states with an outstanding record of struggle against colonialism and, therefore, there are many common bonds between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Algeria. Further proximity between the two Islamic states, therefore, is very important in bringing about a policy of solidarity among Islamic states. This is particularly so as Iran is regarded as strategic and one of the most powerful Muslim countries in the world.

It must be stressed that, with regard to the Persian Gulf crisis, the continued presence of the foreign forces is not acceptable and any military action by them would only aggravate an already tense situation in the volatile region.

A real and major solution to the Persian Gulf crisis should in fact be presented by the Islamic states, and as a first step towards this end, there should be strong unity among them. It is hoped that with the strengthening of relations among the Muslim countries, the problems of the Islamic World will be gradually resolved and the suppression of Muslims in Islamic states and elsewhere will be terminated.

Reportage on Foreign Minister's Visit to Sweden

WA2012155090

For reportage on the visit by Foreign Minister Velayati to Sweden, including reports on his talks with Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson, please see the Sweden section of the 20 December West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Cultural Envoy's Body Returned From Pakistan

LD2012224890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the pure body of the martyr, Sadiq Ganji, head of Iran's Cultural House in Lahore, Pakistan, was flown back to Tehran Airport today by Pakistani aircraft. Mr. Khatami, minister of culture and Islamic guidance, the Pakistani ambassador, and other embassy personnel in Iran, as well as the family of the martyr, placed wreaths on the coffin and carried it from the aircraft to the waiting ambulance.

According to the same report, the prime minister [vazir-e a'zam] of Pakistan's Punjab Province, who accompanied the body of martyr Ganji to Tehran, in a meeting with Mr. Khatami, expressed the Pakistani Government's deep regret over the painful tragedy.

The minister of culture and Islamic guidance also visited the family of martyr Ganji and expressed his condolences to his family for their depressing loss.

The report also points out that the pure body of the martyr, Sadiq Ganji, will be escorted from Tehran University on Friday, 21 December, and then taken to his birthplace, Borazjan.

Fifth Stage of Piruzi-1 Maneuvers Completed

LD2012183490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Excerpt] In the continuation of the fifth stage of the Piruzi-1 [Victory-1] joint maneuvers and the implementation of the tactical phase, our air and sea units, with military precision and one hundred percent readiness, prevented the incursion of a hypothetical enemy into the azure blue waters of the Persian Gulf, Oman Sea, and the strategic Straight of Hormuz. According to an announcement by the joint Tactical Headquarters of the Piruzi-1 maneuvers, in this stage of the operation, naval and air units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] and the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps Navy, using reconnaissance planes and vessels equipped with electronic warfare systems, embarked on air and sea patrols, simultaneously reconnoitering the hypothetical enemy advancing toward the Persian Gulf and opening heavy fire on them. Our forces, with military precision and a hundred percent readiness, fanned out in the region and kept all movements and transportations under observation. Our forces commenced their attack and prevented the incursion of the hypothetical enemy into the azure blue waters of the Persian Gulf, Oman Sea, and the strategic Straight of Hormuz.

Meanwhile, our forces managed to successfully finish another stage of the Piruzi-1 joint maneuvers, using fighter planes and missile systems and completely destroying all the equipment and troops of the hypothetical enemy. [passage omitted]

'Biased' Report on Human Rights Criticized

NC1912194990 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 6 Dec 90

[Editorial: "Weekly Political Analysis—Why Another Invitation?"]

[Text] This week, the issue of human rights has attracted attention in Iran once again, and great sensitivity has been indicated. Amnesty International has issued a statement and the UN Commission on Human Rights has also approved a draft resolution in this regard.

In these documents, some points have been stressed and noted, certain issues have been deliberately ignored, and in view of certain objectives which are being pursued in both these cases, it appears that both these organizations ostensibly function separately. However, some hidden hands and common objectives have coordinated their reactions so that their complaints are aimed against Islamic Iran and in particular, against its Islamic identity.

An important point here is that the UN Human Rights Commission has welcomed the Iranian decision to invite the International Red Cross Committee to inspect Iranian prisons and has expressed hope that this decision be implemented as soon as possible. One should ask the officials and the decisionmaking centers of the system in this regard whether they have been so pleased by the trend of events and the biased report formulated by "Galindo Pohl" [quotation marks as published] and the world reaction it elicited that they then made such a decision.

When the system's officials are aware of the real objectives and such propagandistic pressures and even in their detailed discourses denounce these organizations—that is, world arrogance—why is it that while deciding, we repeat these decisions? Are we forced to welcome those who have proven they do not have any goodwill and receive instructions from all our enemies and the United States so that the way might be paved for questioning the laws and regulations of our Islamic judicial system?

Is there any duress involved in the matter? Is this concurrence a sign of self-defeat before the propagandistic onslaught of the enemies of Islam? Are there any issues of which the nation is not aware? These are questions for which it is imperative to obtain clear and convincing responses for our alert and vigilant nation to comprehend.

Planning Director Outlines Budget Projections

LD1712112190 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 17, IRNA—The Islamic Republic's general budget for the next fiscal year will be up by at least 40 percent compared to the current year's general budget, according to head of the plan and budget organization Mas'ud Roghani Zanjani.

Zanjani who is also vice-president said in an interview with reporters here Sunday that the next year's general budget has been compiled with a view to ensuring that a proper background for the realization of the development goals of the first five-year development plans will be created.

The general budget for the next Iranian calender year 1370 (March 21, 1991-March 20, 1992) will be at least rls. [rials] 18,787 billion that is 42.8 percent higher than it was in the current calendar year.

In the year 1370 the budget of government agencies and government companies will be rls. 10,000 billion which, Roghani Zanjani said is indication of the re-activation of the wheels of the national economy.

The general expenditure of the government in the year 1370 will be at least rls. 8,805 billion, up by 42.2 percent compared to the current year. The increase, he said, has been offered as a guarantee for the successful accomplishment of the goals of the 1370-budget which in some sectors is because of the population growth and improvement in services to the society. In the 1370- budget revenues are expected to increase by 54.6 percent as compared to that of the current year, that is country's revenue next year is estimated to hit around rls. 7,087 billion. Tax revenue of the government next year is to amount to rls. 2,248 billion that is a growth of about 39.2 percent as compared to that of the current year which, Roghani Zanjani said, will be possible because of the prospering business of private firms in Iran.

He said that despite expected increase in price of oil during the next year the national budget has been compiled on the basis of a relatively low price of dlrs. [dollars] 18.4 for each barrel of oil during the next year. Government revenues next year are expected to increase by 54.6 percent as compared to the current year, and government expenditures will grow by about 37.3 percent which means the budget deficit next year will be lower than it has been this year.

Zanjani said that certain expenditures included in the 1370 budget are not consistent with the five year development plan among them the allocation of rls. 200 billion for increase in the salaries of government employees, or of rls. 270 billion for reconstructing war damaged areas. He expressed hope that next year as many as 500,000 dislodged inhabitants of the war-damaged areas now taking residence in Tehran and other big cities would return to their hometowns. In addition to the ordinary budget allocated for welfare and development projects in the economically deprived areas of Iran, next year's budget also allocates rls. 60 billion for this purpose.

Allocation for national education programs next year are rls. 239 billion that is 24.6 percent higher than it has been this year. Allocations for medicare services next year will be 25 percent higher than they have been this year. Allocations for other areas also show increase as compared to those of the current year among them

technical and vocational education by 46.5 percent, higher education by 44.4 percent, national security by 40 percent, defence by 29.9 percent. He added that rls. 1,200 billion is allocated for defence. Allocations for development projects next year are about rls. 2,644.9 that is 54.6 percent higher than they have been this year.

Foreign exchange revenues next year are expected to be consistent with the five-year development plan and will be about dlrs. 19,780 billion.

Roghani Zanjani said that the budget for the next year has been compiled with a view to checking inflation and liquidity growth rates. He said next year the Iranian Government will pay about rls. 550 billion in government subsidies. He said that many economic and industrial projects will become operational next year among them the Mubarakeh steel mill. He also added that next year about 33 percent of the capital shares of non-strategic government-affiliated companies will be offered to their own employees, and that part of their shares will also be offered to the public at exchange.

Paper on New Budget, National Reconstruction

NC2012201590 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Dec 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Needs of Country Exceed Statistical Figures in New Budget"]

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani yesterday presented to the Majles ahead of time, the Iranian Year 1370 budget (21 March 1991 to March 1992) adding up to eight thousand billion rials. The budget has been presented in the framework of the 5-Year Development Plan. It contains one article and 35 provisions.

After being discussed by the Majles (Parliament), the budget will be presented to the Plan and Budget Commission and other committees of the Majles who will debate the provisions and if necessary suggest amendments to the budget bill before it is presented to the Majles once again for final approval.

The discussion on the 1370 budget will be a protracted one since the budget contains some special features. The most important of these is the increase in taxation on the private sector. It is expected that this increase will for the first time increase government income by 70 percent. This increase in private sector tax levies is aimed at helping achieve the ideals of social justice, as the taxation on this sector will be 2.2 times higher compared to the taxation on the governmental salaried sector. No doubt this will be quite an important and effective step towards the achievement of long-cherished goals, although the ideal has still to be reached.

A second prominent feature of the budget is the reduction in current expenditure envisaged under the 5-year Development Plan which has reached 67.9 percent as compared to the 76 percent and 70 percent in the Iranian years 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] and 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] respectively. Although a considerable achievement, nonetheless the 67.9 percent is still quite a worrisome figure when taking into account the fact that the country has faced an 8-year war and naturally needs a much higher developmental budget to reconstruct the war ruins. This latter task calls for a much more accelerated pace.

Although the 1370 developmental budget standing at 415 billion rials shows an increase of 47 percent as compared to the 1367 budget of 138 billion rials, nevertheless it should not be ignored that the needs of the country far exceed these statistical figures.

Britain's 'Ambiguous Policies' Criticized

NC1712174090 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 3 Dec 90 p 2

[Commentary: "Britain's Ambiguous Policies"]

[Text] Following the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Tehran and London, British officials have repeatedly pointed to the need to improve and expand their politicial and economic relations. Britain has not done anything positive, however, to prove that its statesmen are sincere.

London expects the Iranian officials to immediately accept what it wants politically and economically from the two countries' bilateral relations, but London has no interest in demonstrating goodwill and in creating an atmosphere of trust in its policies on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The following examples all show that London is not interested in implementing a policy of understanding and of mutual trust: the continued detention of Mehrdad Kowkabi, an Iranian student who was arrested; the beating of two Muslim Iranian students at London airport by the British police; and the increased psychological pressure as well as pressure from the police on other Muslim and Iranian students living in Britain.

The most recent example of London's opposition with the Islamic Republic of Iran was its permission to the son of the deposed shah to operate in Britain.

Even though this is directly linked with the Pahlavi family's extensive ties, along with its dependence on and servitude toward the British Government, nevertheless London statesmen have apparently forgotten that the file they opened with their coup in March 1920—which brought Reza Khan to power—was closed in 1978 with the Islamic revolution led by Imam Khomeyni, may his soul rest in peace. They have also forgotten that throughout the ups and downs of diplomatic relations between the two countries, the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran have never been ready to pay tribute to London. Thus, London's inverted horseshoe policy is already known, not only by the Islamic Republic's officials but also by the Islamic ummah of Iran.

Meanwhile, Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials should be very careful in their approach. The respect and dignity of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the preservation of this system cannot become toys in the hands of one person or another.

The officials of the Islamic Republic's Ministry of Foreign Affairs should be very authoritative in making London understand this reality and the fact that the more they resort to a two-sided policy on Iran, the more this will be to its detriment.

Mobilization To Liberate Jerusalem Called For

NC1712183290 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 4 Dec 90 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "The Mobilization of the Islamic World and the Liberation of Jerusalem"]

[Excerpts] In all the ups and downs during the past 40 years in the struggle to liberate Palestine, the Muslim people of Palestine have preserved their ideals for liberation despite all the political plots, military pressures, and economic and social limitations they have faced. In the midst of all this, nothing has been able to instill hope in them for consolidating their struggle as the Islamic revolution.

The Islamic revolution of Iran happened not more than 12 years ago. Even in this brief period, the Palestinians have been able to gain the most from it. The beginning of the struggle toward an Islamic revolution in Palestine three years ago speaks of the impact of Iran's revolution on the occupied territories.

The Middle East peace plan of bringing the Palestinians to the negotiating table and forcing them to a compromise was formed for the sole purpose of neutralizing the impact of the Islamic revolution on the Muslim Palestinian combatants. [passage omitted]

The Islamic revolution of Palestine has gained a priceless example from the Islamic revolution of Iran, which has always been a strength for Palestine and for the combatant Muslims until victory and the liberation of Jerusalem.

The Islamic Conference on Palestine which is opening in Tehran today can, with the concurrence of views of the observers of Palestinian affairs, accelerate the struggles of the Muslims and study ways to extend moral and material support to the Palestinians.

The mobilization of the world of Islam in assisting the Islamic revolution in Palestine is the only practical way to liberate Jerusalem.

Paper Discusses Support for Palestinians

NC1312080690 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 3 Dec 90 p 2

[Editorial: "The Palestine Problem and the Mission of the Islamic Ummah"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The Palestinians' uprising and the accompanying cries of "God is great" were a protest against the reactionary Arab leaders who participated in the Amman summit and who tried, by intentionally ignoring the problem of Palestine, to portray the Islamic Revolution—that is, the only true mentor of the Palestinian movement—as a "regional threat."

The Arab leaders, in concert with the compromising Palestinian leaders, may have tried to ignore the oppression of the Palestinians at that time, but today an international conference is being held in the home of the Islamic revolution and in the name of the Muslim Palestinian ummah. The main objectives behind the conference are to highlight the issue of the oppression of Palestine and to declare the grandeur and strength of the Palestinian nation in advancing the Islamic movement of Palestine. [passage omitted]

The Islamic world and the regional ummah, especially the oppressed Palestinians, have not forgotten that the Iranian nation and the Islamic Republic spared no effort to support the Palestinians, even at the height of the war. They have not forgotten that on the other side of the front were the forces of Arab reaction and those who today pay lip service to supporting the Palestinian nation but who did their best to ensure that the Palestinian problem was forgotten.

We were the ones who kept the banner of support for the Palestinian nation aloft and who created a very strong front, a front so strong that today even those who harmed the Palestinian nation are trying to gain credit by beating their chests and loudly announcing their support for Palestine. Of course, they are lying and they have launched a deceitful propaganda campaign. Nevertheless, such efforts are proof that both the friends and the foes of the Palestinian nation accept the fact that the Palestine problem continues to be the most significant regional problem. This is something of which the Islamic Republic has long been aware and for which it has stood up.

The Islamic Conference on Palestine is to convene tomorrow to discuss a major issue which should be seriously pursued.

This conference is a forum at which the ineffectiveness of the organizations and groups that are operating in the name of the Palestinian nation, and under the label of struggling against Israel, will be shown in practice and at which emphasis will be placed on the popular struggle and the rejection of any kind of compromise with the enemies of the Palestinian nation.

This is a forum at which the dimensions of Israel's crimes, savageries, and inhuman policies will be revealed and at which it will be pointed out that more dangerous and more serious than the Israeli operations are the treacherous blows dealt to the Palestinian people by the compromising faction.

This conference is a forum at which the true roots of the incidents in the region will be revealed and at which it

will be proven that the Persian Gulf crisis and Iraq's aggression against Kuwait has overshadowed the Palestinian problem, something that has provided world arrogance with a golden opportunity to exert pressure on the oppressed Palestinians and to break the "intifadah." Within the context of these realistic analyses and assessments, the insincerity of those who continue to portray themselves as the torchbearers of support for Palestine will also be revealed.

This is a forum which should be used to demonstrate clearly the extent of the impudence of the Americans—the most savage mentors of Israel—and to emphasize seriously the danger it poses, especially the danger posed by the military presence of Israel's most important ally in the region. This is a forum which should be used to highlight the extent of calamity that is awaiting the Islamic world and the regional nations.

The Islamic Conference on Palestine, with its long list of complicated problems related to Palestine, is dutybound to make a clear assessment which should be shared with the Islamic nations and governments in the world and in the region, and to show what path should be taken for a solution of this complicated problem in the Islamic world.

Larijani Comments on Israel's Views of Crisis

NC1912140290 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 6 Dec 90 p 16

["Weekly Political Newsletter" by Foreign Ministry adviser Javad Larijani: "Israel and the Kuwait Issue"]

[Text] 1. Two months [as published] have elapsed since the occupation of Kuwait, and it is now possible to understand the strategy of the two sides of the conflict to a certain extent. Iraq seems to be following the advice of Zahir Shah of Afghanistan who once remarked that one must stand firm in the face of force, as force must be combated by force! This means that Iraq will continue to hold out and to make sensational remarks, as long as it is certain that there will be no military attack. As soon as it feels an attack is imminent, it changes its tactics.

It appears that Saddam believes the Americans are not in a fighting mood. For its part, the United States is blatantly pursuing its own objectives. It would prefer to attain them without fighting a war, but it also wants to keep the lever of the war threat in its hands. In this tussle, the side that is serious about fighting can expect to win. Since both the sides are seeking illicit gains, they are both faced with having to make an effort!

2. Meanwhile, what are Israel's objectives? It is probably being said that Saddam's military forces pose the greatest threat to Israel, even though Israel is contemplating an attack on Iraq behind the scenes. The Iraqis are also capitalizing on their differences with Israel for the sake of political gains and are carrying on extensive propaganda. What is the truth of the situation?

In my opinion, not only does Israel not want any military clash with Iraq, but it also favors the continuation of the Saddam regime. Why? Israel's policy today is based on the deportation of Palestinians. Re'uven Ze'evi, one of the most prominent members of the Knesset, said in an interview in November: "Today 90 percent of the people of Israel favor the transfer of the Palestinians to Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], Morocco, and Jordan!"

The Saddam regime is necessary if this is to be achieved, because the expulsion of the oppressed Muslims of Palestine to Jordanian territory will result in clashes in Jordan, and it is only Saddam who can resolve this issue!

3. On Tuesday an interesting program was presented at a museum in the center of Israel on the theme of preserving the heritage of the Babylonian Jews. It highlighted the idea that Saddam is not against the Jews, and has even expressed support for them on various occasions in word and deed!

4. So what is the story? Israel says that if a deal can be made with Saddam, it should include the issue of the expulsion of Palestinians! There is a good deal of evidence that Bush's policy in no way conforms to this objective. The United States does not wish to relinquish its socio-political domination over the Islamic world and wants the Arab-Israel conflict to remain unresolved. In this way it can manipulate the issue through its links with the two sides.

Thus, there is a good reason for the vehement opposition expressed by pro-Israeli Democrats in the U.S. Congress to Bush's idea of a military confrontation. In an unexpected move, the U.S. Administration has appeared to favor an international conference on the Palestinian issue with the participation of all parties concerned. From Bush's point of view, this political tactic was in fact adopted at the initiative of the U.S. Congress.

Editorial Criticizes 'Arafat, Lauds Intifadah

NC2012214390 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 4 Dec 90 pp 1,2

[Editorial: "An Expression of Solidarity With the Most Oppressed People of the Century"]

[Text] The "First Islamic Conference on Palestine" is to convene in Tehran today in the presence of a number of scholars, analysts, and prominent figures of the world in order to discuss the problems of Palestine and the auspicious uprising of the Palestinian people.

On the eve of this conference, the question arises: Who are the true owners of the current revolution in Palestine known to the contemporary world as the "intifadah"? The simplest answer to this question is naturally that those who have started the auspicious "intifadah" are its true owners.

Thus, the next question is: Who started the intifadah? All the clear facts from known Palestinian groups and organizations show that the intifadah is a "ebullient popular uprising with an Islamic identity" which cannot be attributed to all the known Palestinian groups and organizations.

Even though some opportunistic groups have tried to "ride the tide" and to portray themselves as the custodians of the new movement, the raging and rushing tide was nevertheless so strong that it swept such people aside. These people, however, lacked goodwill and thus tried to harness and control this tide, and even to move against it.

'Arafat, the current head of the PLO, is one of these people who has exerted the most efforts in order to attribute the movement to himself and to his faction. But having been unable to fulfill this objective, he started some efforts—as confessed by the PLO spokesman—in order to confront the intifadah. Recently, in a bid to confront Western and Israeli propaganda portraying the Palestinians as terrorists, a PLO spokesman tried to present a bright record of his organization's activities and stated within this context that so far the 'Arafat faction has revealed and neutralized 200 anti-Zionist operations, and that it has placed this information at the disposal of America and of Israel. How can such people who make such remarks claim to support the Palestinian people; and even if they do make such impudent allegations, should these be accepted?

Commenting on the First Islamic Conference on Palestine, 'Arafat has pointed out that he and his faction were not consulted. Probably one of the strong points of this conference was that it neutralized compromisers, completely ignoring those who consider the foiling of 200 anti-Zionist operations and the betrayal of Palestinian revolutionaries to Israel and America as among their valuable duties. As well as considering these things among their duties, these people can confess such treacheries so impudently that the representatives of such people are alien to the "spirit of the intifadah," to the aspirations of Palestinians, and to the very oppressed Palestinian masses.

The Palestinian compromisers very bitterly feel that the blessed intifadah, which has brought Israel to its knees and has enraged the Zionists, is the true scene of serious and effective fight against the Israeli executioner and against those who have only wanted to "feign to be combatants" and have been aided by the Arab royal courts.

Naturally those who were not willing to state even once the fact that the Palestinian nation is Muslim, and to point this out in their speeches, will oppose a conference in the name of Palestine which emphasizes the Palestinian people's "Islamic identity."

The "First Islamic Conference on Palestine" is not an effort to take the chance from the hands of others. But it is being convened to make one specific point and to show that the new round of struggles, with the presence of the Palestinian people and under the banner of Islam, has started and that its special identity is the thunderous shout of "God is great."

This is the same shout that has made the fearful hearts of the Zionists tremble, and this is a shout which is more fearsome for them than any other weapon. This is the same shout that brought joy to the sad hearts of the Palestinians and encouraged them to tread the difficult path toward the Palestinian revolution. This is the same shout that is inflicting strong blows like a crushing weapon on the body of the enemy who is unable to withstand them.

"God is great" is the secret of the intifadah's victory. "God is great" is the secret of the defeat of Israel. "God is great" is the secret of the continuation of the Islamic uprising in Palestine and the secret of the oppressed Palestinians' encouragement and joy. With their shout of "God is great," the Palestinians are seeking another world. They are thinking of a better future and salvation under the banner of Islam.

They feel that with this shout and under this banner the enemy will fall; today they want to chart their future path with the same shout, the same spirit, and the same valor that they have learned from Islam.

The First Islamic Conference on Palestine is an explicit, serious, and effective expression of support from the world of Islam for the uprising of the oppressed Palestinians. The first Islamic Conference on Palestine is an expression of solidarity with the most oppressed of the oppressed in contemporary history, and because of this its participants have a heavy responsiblity on their shoulders. This responsibility is not merely one of expressing solidarity but of propounding the right, effective, and revolutionary steps. It is only then that they will have offered their services to the intifadah and to the Muslim and oppressed Palestinian nation.

Commentary Views 'Violent Clashes' in Morocco

NC1712141890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0445 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Commentary by Central News Unit Research Group]

[Text] Following yesterday's violent clashes in Morocco, the situation in Fes, Tangiers, Kenitra, and Meknes—where there were the strongest clashes between demonstrators and security forces—continues to be critical. Since reports received from Morocco are contradictory, no accurate figures for the victims of yesterday's clashes are available, and contrary to the Moroccan state news sources which has reported that only two were killed, sources of the opposition groups have reported that about 30 were killed, more than 70 wounded, and about 100 detained.

The differences of opinion between the Moroccan Government and the labor unions who organized yesterday's

strikes and demonstrators have not been only over the number of people killed during the demonstrations. These differences have also been seen in various aspects, from the way the demonstrations and strikes were held to the nature of the participation in the demonstrations and the violation of a former agreement on the Friday strikes. These are all proof that each side is trying to exploit yesterday's violent incidents to its benefit.

In relation to this, opposition groups are accusing the government over the non-intervention of the police force in yesterday's strikes and has attributed the outbreak of the clashes to the provocative acts by the government mercenaries. But the Moroccan Government, which has not attached great significance to yesterday's incidents, is trying—by pointing to the chaos and the demonstrators' acts which were contrary to security—to justify the suppression of the Moroccan opposition with the pretext that their acts were contrary to national security.

Even at the beginning, the Moroccan officials alleged that the clashes were between student groups in Fes University, and that the row that started between pro-Islamic students and leftist forces in this university led to clashes. Once the demonstrations spread, however, the Moroccan Government assigned security forces armed with weapons and with suffocating gases to suppress the protesters on the pretext that the demonstrators had resorted to chaotic and destructive methods, especially in Fes and Tangiers.

Informed political circles believe that these contradictory remarks were primarily aimed at hiding the popular protest against the government's program—both in the political and economic fields—and that the harsh approaches toward the demonstrations were aimed at preventing the continuation and expansion of any kind of activities by government opponents.

Even though the situation in Morocco which has rendered 5 million people jobless is apparently considered the major reason behind the protests, nevertheless the political factors behind these protests cannot be ignored. In view of yesterday's incidents, observers of regional affairs point to the Moroccan Government's harsh stand vis-a-vis the political activities of opponents, and especially of pro-Islamic groups during the recent years, and believe that ignoring popular wants and the wants of various groups can pave the grounds for future clashes in Morocco, especially—when in view of the growth of pro-Islamic sentiments in the Arab Maghreb and more and more openness in the political atmosphere of most countries of the world—suppressive methods will no longer prove effective.

'New Era' of Iranian-French Relations Analyzed

NC2012181990 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES International Weekly in English 13 Dec 90 p 2

[Editorial: "More to Iranian-French Relations Than Debt"]

[Text] Irano-French relations have entered a new era following the recent trip of Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Paris, according to informed observers here. The warm welcome awarded by French officials to the Iranian delegation and the detailed talks between the two sides on matters of mutual interest indicate that bilateral relations are on the path of improvement.

During the two years following the Iraq-Iran war, Tehran-Paris relations have in general, been improving. During this period only the problem of the Salman Rushdie affair and the arrogant stand of the E.C. in this respect caused a short spell of tension in relations.

But informed political observers believe that following Dr. Velayati's recent trip, bilateral cooperation between the two countries will expand in most fields. The almost similar stance of the two countries in wanting a peaceful solution to the Persian Gulf crisis has been a big help in bringing closer thinking between Tehran and Paris. In particular, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas' statement that France does not intend to stay in the Persian Gulf region for a long time and that after the end of the crisis French forces will leave the region was welcomed by Tehran.

But the bone of contention between the two countries still remains the financial dispute involving the one-billion-dollar Iranian loan given to France before the Islamic Revolution. France has still not fully repaid the money it owes to the Islamic Republic.

Expectations were high that during Dr. Velayati's trip and the stress made of high-ranking French officials, this time a final agreement would be reached. But despite French President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Michel Rocard's request that Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Europe and America Mahmud Va'ezi, (who was part of Velayati's delegation) prolong his stay to reach a final solution, an informed source has revealed that as of Tuesday no concrete results had been achieved. The French delegation negotiating with the Iranian officials was said to have shown no flexibility in the talks.

Any failure in the talks can, unfortunately, have a serious negative effect on the expanding bilateral relations between the two countries. If the French had understood the importance better of having good relations with Tehran, today we would not be facing this problem. There is the possibility that the two countries can have extensive and wide-ranging economic ties, while the sum involved in the financial dispute is incomparable to the benefits that would be accrued to both nations from better business relations in the future.

Aqazadeh Views Compensation Claims, New Pipeline

LD1812171290 Tehran IRNA in English 1356 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA—Iran will pay ARCO of the United States $9 million against the company's

original claim of $63 million in damages. The payment will be made to ARCO according to a ruling of the International Court of the Hague which also settles all claims by the 'consortium' against Iran.

Iran's Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh said to reporters here today that the sums payable to ARCO have been computed on the basis of the parity rate of the dollar in the Iranian calendar year 1358 (March 1979-March 1980). He said the International Court of the Hague is now studying LAPCO's claims against the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and NIOC's counterclaims against the former which, he said, amount to about three billion dollars combined. LAPCO is a merger of four companies each of which had 12.5 percent of the shares for oil drilling in Salman oilfield in the Persian Gulf and the NIOC of Iran, too, held the remaining 50 per cent. Drilling operations started on the Salman oilfield in 1968, and until 1979 its daily supply was 200,000 barrels.

The oil minister said his ministry and 'Union' and 'Murphy' which are two of the four companies of LAPCO have agreed that each of the two companies be offered $36.5 million He said negotiations with the other two companies of LAPCO are under way.

Elsewhere in the interview Aqazadeh said talks with certain countries are under way in relation with a trunkline which is to carry Iran's gas to Europe via Turkey. The trunkline will end in France. The gas trunkline will originate from the south of Iran and will move northward to the city of Qazvin in Iran and from there to a point on Iran-Turkey border. Pipe-laying from the Iran-Turkey border is to be undertaken by respective countries.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

Civil Servants End Strike; Bank Strike Continues

BK2112082090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0805 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Dec 21 (AFP)—Nepalese civil servants Friday called off a weeklong strike, following negotiations with the interim government, state radio reported.

"The proposed silent procession of the government employees on Friday has been cancelled and the strike has been called off for the time being," a strike committee source said.

The civil servants had been striking since last Friday demanding meal, housing, education and transport allowances and some other fringe benefits.

The government was represented by two ministers representing the Nepali Congress and the United Left Front (ULF).

The state radio said the government agreed to provide meal and transport allowances starting on April 14, the first day of Nepal's new year.

A high-level administrative reform committee would be set up soon with representation by the strike committee to consider the other demands and make recommendations to the government within six weeks.

Employees of the Nepal Rastra Bank however continued their strike Friday pressing their demands. The central bank employees have been mounting a separate campaign to press for education and housing allowances and other benefits.

A bank source said they would strike for two days in the next week if their demands were not met.

Pakistan

Prime Minister To Visit Iran, Turkey in Jan

BK2012131890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, is to pay official visits to Iran and Turkey next month. The visits, which will be the prime minister's first official visits abroad, will take place from the 19th to the 21st to Iran and from the 21st to the 24th to Turkey.

Spokesman on Stand Taken During India Talks

BK2012155790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] India and Pakistan have agreed to exchange next month the instruments of ratification on the agreement prohibiting attacks on each other's nuclear installations and facilities. The agreement was signed in December 1988 and subsequently ratified by the two governments. This was decided at the third round of secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan which concluded in Islamabad today.

A joint statement issued today says the two countries have decided to hold the next meeting in New Delhi of their surveyor generals on the question of demarcation of the land boundary in Sir Creek in early February next year. Later, the discussions on Wullar Barrage will be resumed.

It was also decided that with a view to reduce tension between the two countries, the directors general of the military operations of both countries will keep in touch with each other on a weekly basis via telephone. Meetings of sub-commissions already set up to deal with various issues will be resumed at the appropriate time.

The next meeting of the two foreign secretaries will be held in New Delhi at the end of February next year. This will be preceded by a meeting of experts to finalize the

pending drafts of the two agreements on advance notification of military exercises and agreement on prevention of airspace violations by military aircraft.

Briefing newsmen on the three-day foreign secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan, a foreign office spokesman said that the foreign secretaries exchanged views on the Kashmir problem and Pakistan emphasized that the Kashmir problem is of pivotal importance in connection with India-Pakistan relations. There is a need to solve this problem in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions. Resolution of this problem will lead to the establishment of cooperative bilateral relations.

The Pakistani foreign secretary said that the Kashmir problem is an international issue and the current struggle in the Indian occupied Kashmir is solely of an indigenous nature. He emphasized that the Kashmiri people should be given their right of self-determination without any pressure.

The Pakistani foreign secretary also apprised his Indian counterpart of the Pakistani Government and people's deep anguish and concern at the communal violence in India and the attempts on the part of the extremist elements to tear down the Babri Mosque.

The Pakistani foreign secretary also emphasized the need to pull back the troops to the peace-time positions to eliminate dangers and the tension caused by the concentration of a large number of troops along the Line of Control in Kashmir and on the Punjab border.

The spokesman said that during the talks the Pakistani foreign secretary again emphasized the need to set up a nuclear-free zone in South Asia and reiterated various Pakistani proposals on a bilateral and regional basis in this connection. In response, India said that this will hurt India's stand on global nuclear disarmament.

Spokesman on Assassination of Iranian Diplomat

BK2012132690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Pakistan has offered all cooperation to the Iranian Government in tracking down the assassins of Mr. Sadeq Ganji, director general of Iranian Culture Center in Lahore. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad today that officials from Iran are on their way to Pakistan to assist in the investigations. The Pakistan Government will do everything to see that (?all) assassins are brought to justice according to the judicial process. The Pakistan Government has also assured the Iranian diplomats of additional protection in the wake of the incident.

Meanwhile, the body of the deceased Iranian diplomat was flown to Tehran today in an aircraft provided by the Pakistan Government. The Punjab governor, Mr. Mohammad Azhar, accompanied the body. Earlier, the prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, attended the funeral procession of the deceased diplomat along with the governor and chief minister of Punjab.

Sri Lanka

Li Peng Signs Economic Agreement, Departs

BK2012124790 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] The Chinese prime minister [title as heard], in a farewell message to his Sri Lankan counterpart D.B. Wijetunge, states while before returning home following a completely successful official goodwill visit to Sri Lanka, his wife and he wish to express their heartfelt thanks to him and the government and the people of Sri Lanka for the warm and kind hospitality accorded to them during their visit. He had useful talks with Sri Lankan leaders which contributed to and enhanced understanding and friendship between the two countries. Mr. Peng said he had seen the achievements made by Sri Lanka in nation-building endeavors. He was satisfied with the results of his visit and was convinced that the Sino-Sri Lankan friendship would be expanded in the years to come.

China and Sri Lanka signed an agreement on economic and technical cooperation in Colombo yesterday. The agreement provides for an interest-free loan of 375 million rupees for a period of five years beginning next year. The loan will be utilized to assist Sri Lankan projects agreed on between the two countries. The minister of state for foreign affairs, John Amaratunga, signed on behalf of the Sri Lankan Government, while the Chinese vice minister of foreign economic relations and trade, Li Lanqing, signed on behalf of China.

The Chinese prime minister, Li Peng, and his delegation left the island yesterday after three-day state visit. President Ranasinghe Premadasa and Madam Hema Premadasa arrived at the Hotel Regent in Colombo yesterday and bade farewell to Prime Minister Li Peng and Madam Zhu Lin. At the Colombo International Airport in Katunayaka, the Chinese prime minister and Madam Zhu Lin were accorded a guard of honor by the Sri Lanka Army. Prime Minister D.B. Wijetnge, Mrs. Wijetunge, Minister in Attendance P. Dayaratne, Mrs. Dayaratne, Foreign Minister Harold Herath, Minister of Public Administration and Provincial Councils and Home Affairs Festus Perera, opposition leader Sirimavo Bandaranaike, ministers, and MP's [members of parliament], and members of the diplomatic corps were present at the airport to bid farewell to the Chinese prime minister.

Wijeratne Says Army Will Destroy LTTE

BK2112113690 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] The motion to extend the state of emergency by a further month was passed in Parliament by a majority of 54 votes last night. Hundred and eighteen MP's [members of parliament] voted for the motion while 54 MP's voted against it. The MP's of the SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party], TULF [Tamil United Liberation

Front], MEP [Mahajana Eksath Peramuna], and the USA [United Socialist Alliance] voted against the motion. The MP's of Sri Lanka Muslim Congress were not present in the chamber at the time of voting.

Winding up the debate, the minister of plantation industries and state minister for defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, expressed his grief and shock on the tragic death of the two brave officers. He told Parliament that the country has many more such brave officers and soldiers and they are ready to face any challenge of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said that the LTTE terrorist organization will be destroyed finally with the help of the armed forces and the police.

New Offensive Launched, 41 LTTE Killed

BK2112075290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0706 GMT 21 Dec 90

[Text] Colombo, Dec 21 (AFP)—Security forces have killed 41 guerrillas in a fresh offensive against Tamil rebels in Sri Lanka's northeast, officials said here Friday.

State Minister for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne said a major crackdown against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was launched Thursday to "clear out the remnants of the LTTE."

Earlier the government had claimed it had established total control over vast areas in the Tamil-majority northeast which had been occupied by the LTTE since Indian troops completed their withdrawal from Sri Lanka in March.

"We are ready to hammer right round the wicket. Sixes and fours will be flying off the bat," Mr. Wijeratne said, using cricket parlance to stress that the operations would be extensive and successful.

He said troops currently battling the LTTE in the northeast had been reinforced after a landmine blast killed two senior officers Tuesday.

"It was an unfortunate incident. But these things are to be expected in war. This has reinforced our determination. We will see more action with that extra determination provoked by the LTTE," he said.

He said a curfew was imposed in eastern Batticaloa and Ampara districts, Mullaitivu in the northeast and Vavuniya in the north at midday Thursday and will be lifted at dawn Saturday.

Naval gunboats shot and destroyed five boats off the Batticaloa coast late Thursday, killing 32 LTTE men, the minister said.

"They were bolting (fleeing) by sea. The land routes have now been blocked. So they have to take to the sea," he said, adding that five more LTTE fighters were shot dead by police in Ampara District.

Military officials here said four Tigers were shot dead on the outskirts of Palaly military base, the main airfield in northern Sri Lanka.

The LTTE resumed their 17-year old separatist campaign after abruptly ending peace talks with Colombo on June 11.

The talks lasting 14 months brought little result except the complete withdrawal in march of Indian troops who were fighting to disarm the LTTE under a 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka agreement.

More than 5,200 people have died in bitter fighting since June 11 when the LTTE started attacking government forces and rival Tamil militant groups.

Maldives Frees 33 Sri Lankan Coup Plotters

BK2112015890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1758 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Colombo, Dec 20 (AFP)—The Maldives Government Thursday sent home 33 members of a Sri Lankan Tamil group jailed for their involvement in a coup attempt against President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom in November 1988, officials here said.

The 33 cadres of the Peoples Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOT) arrived [and] were immediately taken away by police to an undisclosed detention centre on arrival here later Thursday, they said.

Sixty eight PLOT militants were captured and sentenced to prison terms ranging from 17 years to life after the coup bid was crushed with assistance from Indian troops.

The remaining plot members and four Maldivian coup leaders are still imprisoned in the archipelago which lies some 660 kilometers (400 miles) southwest of Sri Lanka.

Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne said last week that President Ranasinghe Premadasa was considering a request by the Maldivian Government to take back 33 of the Tamil militants.

He said that Male was retaining the hardcore PLOT members, 10 of whom were first sentenced to death and later had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment.

Officials said that the PLOT members released Thursday had been serving lighter jail terms.

PLOT, which once fought alongside the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for a separate Tamil state in Sri Lanka's northeast, has turned against its old allies and now backs Colombo in its battle with the Tigers who renewed their seccessionist war in June after more than a year of peace talks with the government.

Dozens of armed PLOT cadres have been deployed in the northeast to help government troops trace LTTE guerrillas.